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SHANA OH YOSHITSUNE

by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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遮那王 義経

沢田ひろふみ
SAWADA HIROFUMI

5

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

KCGM839
MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

遮那王 義経 5

沢田ひろふみ
SAWADA HIROFUMI

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天狗を捜す少女、徳子と遮那王は山べと入ったが、徳子がまむしに咬まれてしまった。一方、漂太と入れ替わり軒下一座に入った本物の牛若に清盛の魔手が……？

2002年6月

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

沢田ひろふみ作品

遮那王 ―義経― 1～12

山賊王 1～6

以下続刊

Chapter 16:
The Irony of Fate

Previously:

After meeting his doppelganger, Hyouta becomes the boy's double. However, Dainagon feels threatened by Hyouta's existence, and decides to send him off to a temple in the mountains. He also sends assassins after Hyouta, but luckily, Hyouta remains unharmed for now

After having been bestowed the name, "Shana Oh," he meets a boy with tremendous strength, creating a lasting bond of friendship. Afterward, a young lady named Tokuko comes to the temple in search of Tengu, as she needs his help to save her father. However, on the trip back to the temple she is bitten by a poisonous snake!

もくじ

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The Irony of Fate

BUT... IF YOU DO THAT...
YOU'LL GET POISONED TOO!
WE HAVE TO TAKE A CHANCE!
SPIT!
SHANA...

OKAY, I DID ALL THAT I POSSIBLY COULD...
WE NEED TO HEAD BACK TO THE TEMPLE!
AH!
CAN YOU WALK?
YE YES
NO, IT'S OKAY! I'M REALLY HEAVY!
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?! QUICKLY!
I'LL CARRY YOU!
UH...

IS... IS IT OKAY? AM I TOO HEAVY?
YOU'RE REALLY LIGHT! I'M ACTUALLY A LOT STRONGER THAN I LOOK!
I'M MORE THAN ENOUGH TO CARRY YOU!
YOUR RIGHT HAND IS SHAKING TOO...
BUT YOU'RE SWEATING SO MUCH...

I KNOW THAT IT'S NOT EASY FOR YOU...
SORRY, SHANA
GEEZ... HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO APOLOGIZE?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
UM... OKAY.
OH, TOKUKO, YOUR FATHER...
?
WHAT'S HE SICK WITH?
OH...
HE DOESN'T TELL ME, SO I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY BUT I SEE HIM IN PAIN, SOMETIMES.

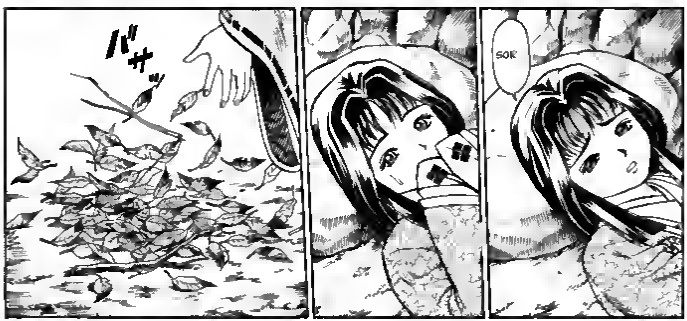
TOKUKO CARES A LOT ABOUT HIM.
I WISH THAT HE COULD REST MORE, INSTEAD OF WORKING SO MUCH...
PROBABLY BECAUSE HE WORKS TOO HARD...
BUT HE LOVES ME MOST, SO I DO TOO!
OF COURSE! BUT HE IS SCARY WHEN HE'S ANGRY.
IS HE NICE TOO?
SHANA, WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER?
THAT'S PRETTY AWESOME, TO HAVE A DAD LIKE THAT.

HE'S NICE...
WELL, I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM...
BUT I'M SURE HE'S A NICE PERSON.
AH...
SORRY.
I SAID I DIDN'T WANT ANY MORE APOLOGIES! STOP SAYING THAT!

IT HAD TO START RAINING NOW...
DAMN IT!
TOKUKO, WOULD YOU BE OKAY IF I RAN?
...
YE... YES.
ザアアアア

I'M OKAY...

LIAR. IT'S OBVIOUS HE'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT ME
THE RAIN IS GOING TO STOP SOON ANYWAY.
SORRY, I'M TIRED. I NEED SOME REST.


SOK

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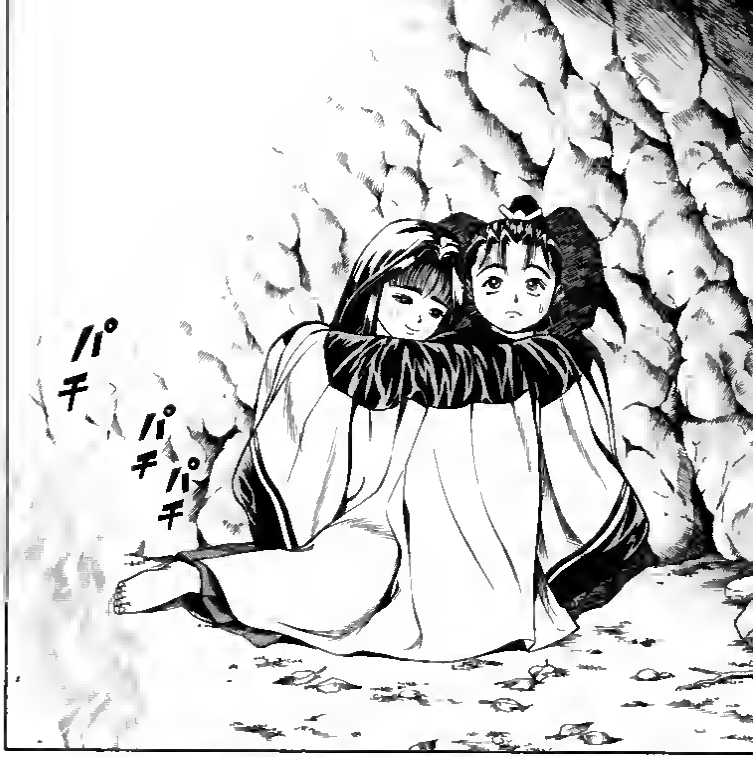
I DIDN'T THINK IT'D CATCH ON FIRE SO QUICKLY...
SUPERB!
MOM
MOM

IT'S BECAUSE I USED TO LIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS.
SHANA KNOWS EVERYTHING.
YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE WEATHER.. AND FIRE...
That...
I meant...
LIKE.. I MEANT I'VE LIVED HERE FOR A LONG TIME!
LIVING IN THE MOUNTAINS?
A NOBLE...
UM!
Phew...
THAT DOES MAKE MORE SENSE.

HEY
TOKUKO, YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF TO DRY THEM
AH?!
I'M OKAY. THERE'S NO NEED.
IT'S... IT'S FINE.
STUPID, YOU'LL GET SICK!
AH!
AH!! NO!!
DON'T!

THIS ONE'S DRY NOW USE IT AS A COVER.
OKAY.
TELL ME IF YOU'RE COLD.
LESS COLD NOW?

JUST LIKE FATHER...
SHANA IS REALLY SHY; SOMETIMES BUT, HE'S REALLY GENTLE.
I'M FINE
NO. COME HERE.
AH?
YOU'LL GET SICK IF YOU STAY LIKE THAT.
SHANA.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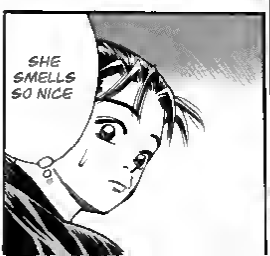
I SAID I WASN'T COLD...
IT'S FINE JUST STAY HERE


SHE SMELLS SO NICE

I FORBID YOU FROM SAYING ANY MORE 'THANK YOU'S!
WILL YOU STOP TALKING SO MUCH?
SHANA, YOU'RE VERY KIND.
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SHANA OH THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
NOPE, I WILL SAY IT!
SHANA-OH,
DON'T YOU EVER COME DOWN TO THE CITY?
THAT'S WHY GIRLS ARE SO...
DAMN IT

WHY?
I CAN'T LEAVE THE MOUNTAIN, SO I GUESS NOT.
THEY WOULDN'T LET YOU GO EVEN IF YOU BEGGED THEM?
I WANT YOU TO COME VISIT ME AT MY HOUSE.
YOUR HOUSE?
I ALSO WANT MY FATHER TO MEET YOU.
...

THEN KEEP THIS IN THE MEANTIME.
EH?
REALLY?!
I HAVE NO IDEA. MAYBE THE MONKS WILL LET ME, IF THEY ARE KIND ENOUGH.
SO THAT'S WHY...
SHE SMELLED SO GOOD?
IT'S A PERFUME BAG.
KEEP THIS PERFUME BAG,
AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT TOKUKO.

YOU HAVE TO COME AND PLAY WITH ME!
AH.. OKAY...
PINKY PROMISE!

HA!
THAT FLUTIST IS AMAZING, TOO!
OH, MY! THOSE KIDS ARE JUST INCREDIBLE.
WOW!

WHAT AN INTERESTING BUNCH OF KIDS
SUCH SMOOTH TUNES...
HOW UNEXPECTED, CONSIDERING THEY'RE JUST STREET PERFORMERS
THANKS, EVERYONE!
YES! SUCCESS!
WE EARNED A LOT!
BUT WE SHOULDN'T TELL THE MAN WE'RE STAYING WITH..
YEAH, HE'S TOO GREEDY HE'LL TAKE IT ALL AWAY FROM US
LOOK AT ALL THE EARNINGS WE MADE TODAY!

REALLY? WAS I NOT TOO DIS-TRACTING?
I'M STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH AT DRUMS, SO I DECIDED TO PLAY THE FLUTE...
USHIWAKA'S FLUTE-PLAYING WAS ALSO REALLY GOOD!
THANK YOU ALL...
EXAC-TLY!
NOPE! YOU WERE GREAT! YOU'RE DEFINITELY PART OF NOKISHITA NOW!
WHAT ABOUT IT?
YES WE ARE...
YOU GUYS ARE CALLED THE NOKISHITA GROUP?

WE'RE PLANNING TO HOLD A FESTIVAL SOON,
AND I'D LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO PERFORM FOR US.
OH! YOU WANT US TO PERFORM FOR YOU?
OF COURSE WE WILL.
AH? WAIT? WHAT?
WAIT!
THIS IS A BUSINESS!
YOU HAVE TO PAY US WELL!
SHE'S TRYING TO IMITATE HYOUTA AGAIN.
SHE PROBABLY WANTS A REPEAT OF LAST TIME...

OH?
HOW ABOUT I PAY YOU GUYS TEN TIMES WHAT YOU HAVE OVER THERE?
I KNEW IT..
MASTER, WE SHALL PERFORM OUR BEST FOR YOU
WHO WAS THAT SAMURAI?
...?
SO WHY DON'T YOU PERFORM HERE FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS
I'LL COME TO PICK YOU UP BEFORE THE START OF THE FESTIVAL..

HE MUST BE FROM SOME REALLY RICH SAMURAI FAMILY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. THIS IS SUCH A TREMENDOUS PAY.
WE HAVE TO DO OUR BEST!

YOU MEAN ABOUT DAINAGON-SAMA?
DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS?
I'LL KEEP TRAINING.
USHIWAKA, YOU CAN DO IT!

I HEARD THAT HE'S ABOUT TO GET A HUGE PROMOTION SOON.
DAINAGON?

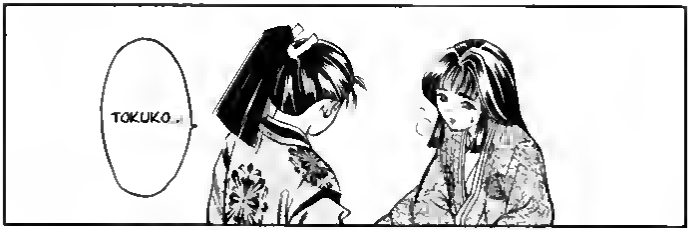
IT IS INDEED HEIKE'S GOLDEN AGE!
TO THINK THAT HE CLIMBED TO THAT POSITION AS A WARRIOR!
I GUESS HE'LL BE ENTERING THE COURT, THEN. INCREDIBLE!
I HEAR THAT SOMEONE FROM HEIKE IS GOING TO REPLACE HIM.
IF THEY HEAR US GOSSIPING, WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE...
FATHER'S ENEMY IS GOING TO BE PROMOTED...!
EVEN GENJI LOST AGAINST THEM. WE WON'T STAND A CHANCE.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. LET'S STOP TALKING.
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.

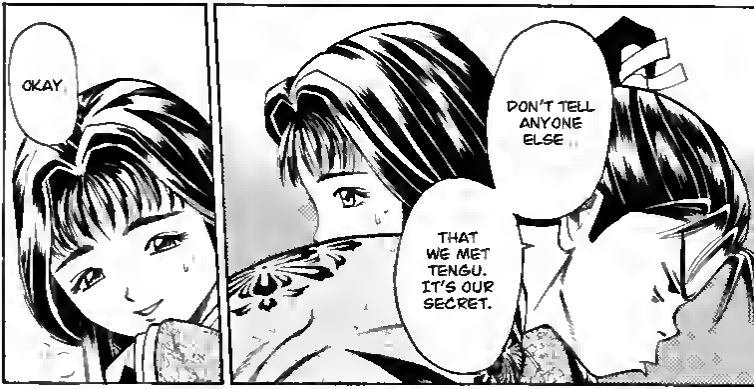
AND WE GENJI CAN ONLY STAND ASIDE AND WATCH...?
LET'S GO
OKAY
YEAH I'M FINE
USHIWA-KA, YOU OKAY?
PROMO-TION
I'M SURE THERE WILL BE HEAPS OF FOOD AND PER-FORMANCES BY VARIOUS ARTISTS!
THERE MUST BE A FESTIVAL COMING, RIGHT?
SO IF THAT'S THE CASE,
YOU'RE RIGHT.

WE'RE ALMOST THERE, TOKUKO! DON'T GIVE UP NOW!
YES

IT'S KAN-KUJITSU'S VOICE
HEYYY! SHANA!!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
STILL NO TRACE?
YES! WE SEARCHED THE ENTIRE BACK SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN, BUT WE DIDN'T SEEN ANYONE.
WHERE ON EARTH IS SHE ?
HERE SHE IS!
LADY TOKUKO!

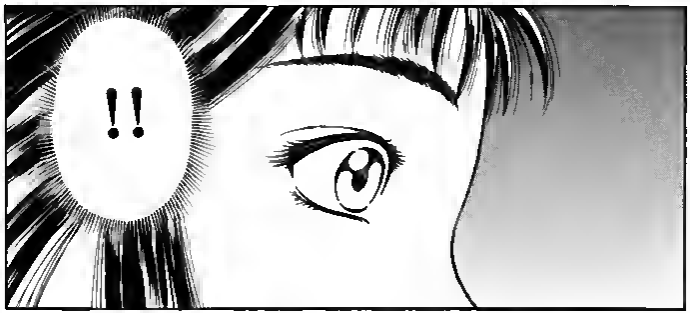
WHAT HAP-PENED?
SHE WAS BITTEN BY A POISON-OUS SNAKE GET SOME MEDICINE, QUICKLY!
POI-SONOUS SNAKE?!
SHANA! HERE'S THE MEDI-CINE.
TOKUKO, EAT THIS!
ゴクッ
IS IT SERIOUS?!
DON'T GET SO FRANTIC, ALL RIGHT?
I ALREADY SUCKED MOST OF THE POISON OUT 15 MINUTES AGO
IN THAT CASE, SHE MIGHT COME DOWN WITH A FEVER, BUT NOTHING TOO SERIOUS.
WELL, THEN! LET'S HEAD BACK!
IF IT GETS TOO DARK WE MIGHT HAVE TO POSTPONE THE TRIP.
YES!
TAKE THE LADY BACK TO THE CARRIAGE.


TOKUKO...


OKAY.
DON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE!!
THAT WE MET TENGU. IT'S OUR SECRET.

HURRY!
WAIT FOR ME!
YOU HAVE TO COME OVER TO PLAY!
ALWAYS LIKE THIS, MAKING A MESS
SO THEY'RE LEAVING ALREADY?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TELL YOUR FATHER, DAINAGON...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE SHANA OH NOW!
WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU, USHIWAKA!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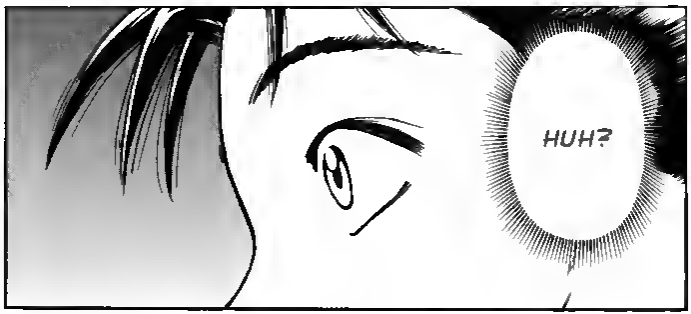
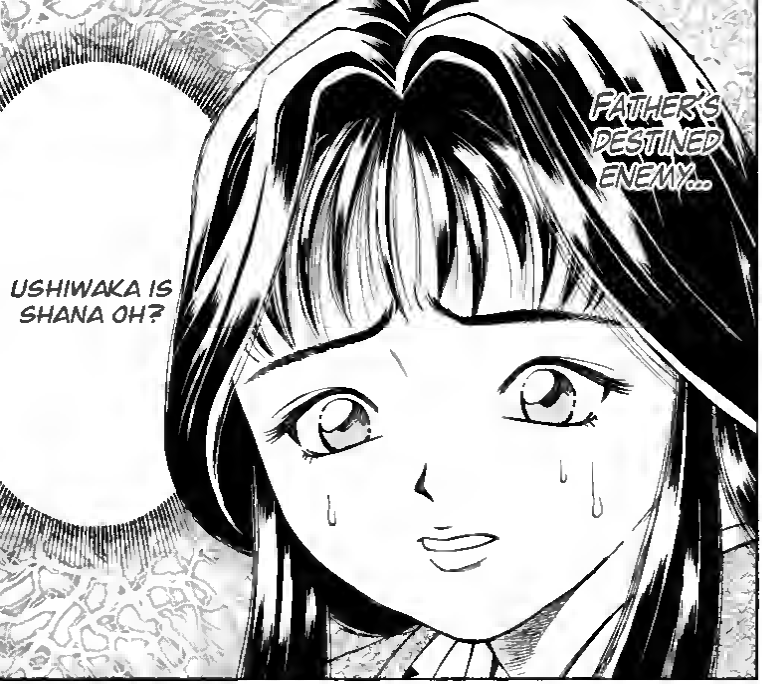
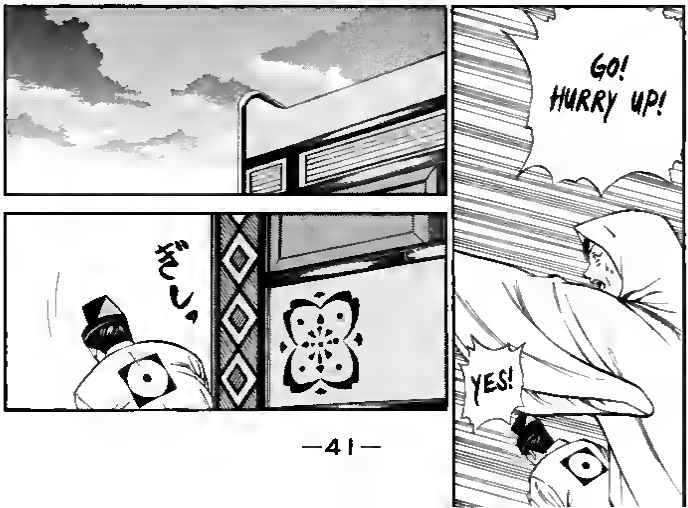
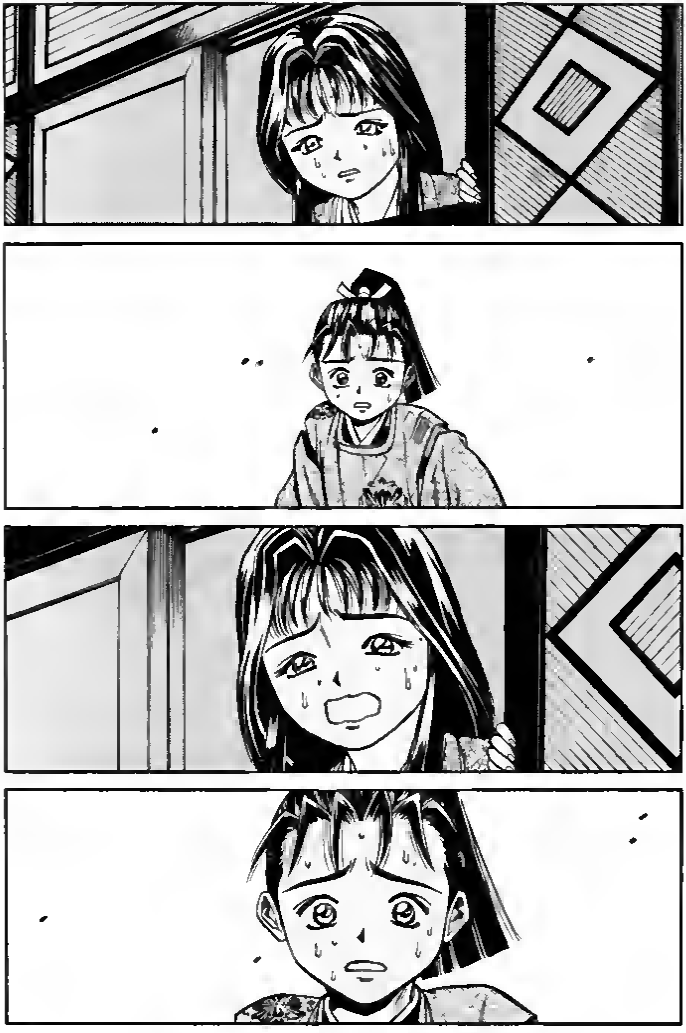

HUH?

USHIWAKA?
HER FATHER IS DAINAGON?
THE FATHER SHE LOVED SO MUCH WAS DAINAGON?

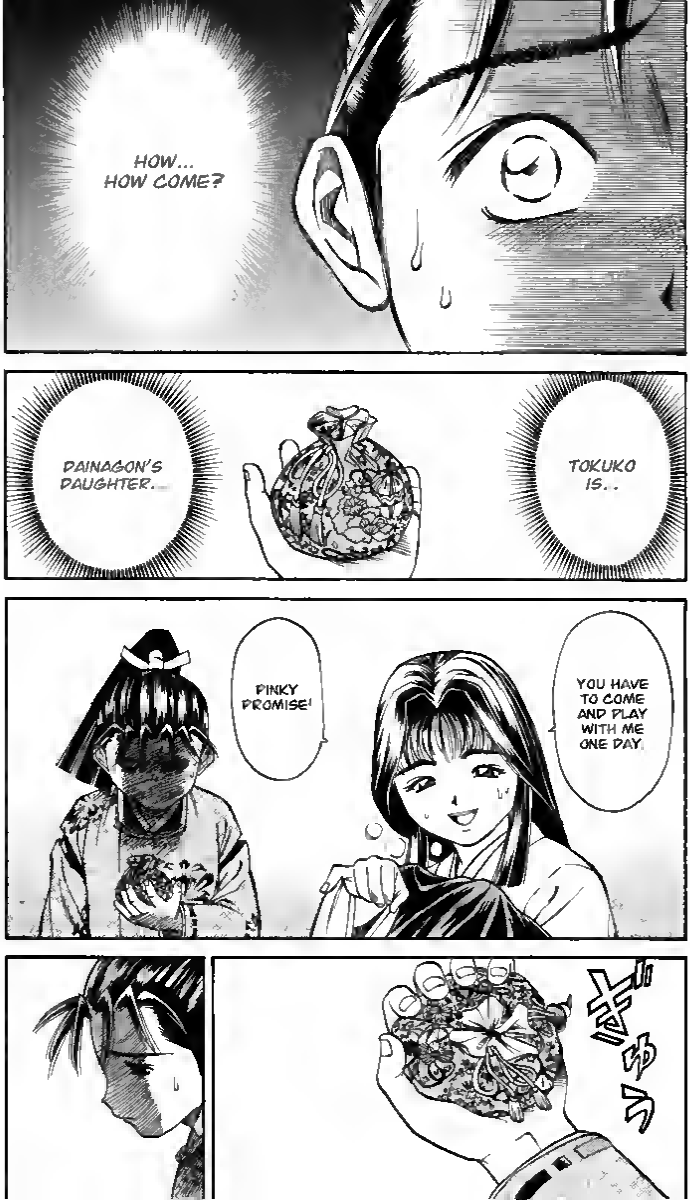

FATHER'S DESTINED ENEMY...
USHIWAKA IS SHANA OH?


GO! HURRY UP!
YES!



AH!

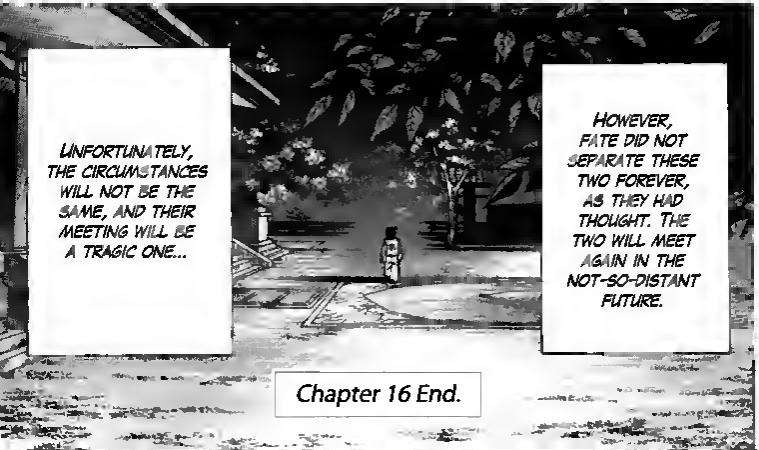
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!


HOW...
HOW COME?
DAINAGON'S DAUGHTER...
TOKUKO IS..
PINKY PROMISE!
YOU HAVE TO COME AND PLAY WITH ME ONE DAY.
ぎゅっ

I LOVE HIM THE MOST!
HE'S THE GENTLEST!
HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE...?
HE'LL NEVER LET TOKUKO COME...
IF DAINA-GON HEARS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY...
HEY! SHANA, WHAT'S UP?
I CAN'T SEE HER AGAIN
EVEN IF I WANTED TO,

Sob
Sob
Sob

TOKUKO


UNFORTUNATELY, THE CIRCUMSTANCES WILL NOT BE THE SAME, AND THEIR MEETING WILL BE A TRAGIC ONE...
HOWEVER, FATE DID NOT SEPARATE THESE TWO FOREVER, AS THEY HAD THOUGHT. THE TWO WILL MEET AGAIN IN THE NOT-SO-DISTANT FUTURE.

Chapter 16 End.

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HYOUTA SENT ME A MESSAGE?
EVEN IF "HYOUTA" SENT THIS TO ME, I'M ACTUALLY THE REAL HYOUTA...
BUT I CAN'T READ KANJI...
YOUNG MASTER USHIKAWA How are you? Everyone here is doing well.
YOUNG... MASTER... U SHI... USHI... K A... WA...
OH, HE WROTE EVERYTHING OUT IN SYLLABLES, HOW NICE OF HIM
USHI-KAWA IS REALLY THOUGH-TFUL.
YOUNG MASTER USHIKAWA, PLEASE WISH US LUCK
Stay healthy. From, Fake Hyouta.
ISN'T TOMOR-ROW THE TENTH?
ERM...
THE GROUP WILL BE HEADING TO A BIG BANQUET ON THE TENTH OF FEBRUARY FOR A PERFORMANCE
WE DON'T KNOW WHOSE HOUSE IS THROWING THE BANQUET YET, BUT SINCE THE PAY IS VERY HIGH I'LL BE GOING TOO

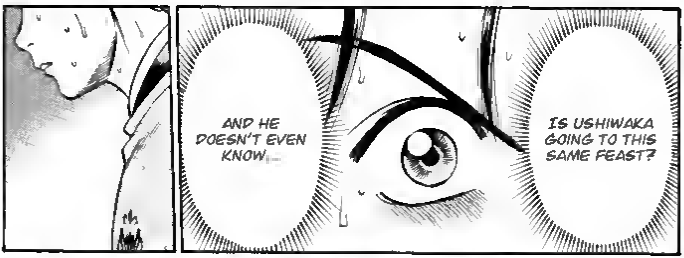
Chapter 17: Feast

DICK MONK! DICK MONK!
HAHAHA HAHAHA....
NEXT DAY
GET ME OUTTA HERE, NOW!
HEY, KID!
HAHA HAHA HA....
HEY! HEY, WAIT...

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
AH! RYOUKEN-SAN!
I WAS TRICKED BY SHANA OH
AND SO... I GOT STUCK LIKE THIS.
SIGH
YOU ARE A GROWN MAN, AFTER ALL
BUT HE HAS BEEN TOO ACTIVE LATELY
YEA... HE'D CALMED DOWN FOR A WHILE AFTER THAT GIRL LEFT
BUT THEN HIS HAND HEALED UP, AND IT BEGAN TO SNOW
NOW MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE GETTING PRANKED
I HEARD SOMEONE FELL INTO ONE OF THE HOLES HE DUG...
AND WAS TRAPPED THERE FOR TWO HOURS BEFORE HE WAS RES-CUED

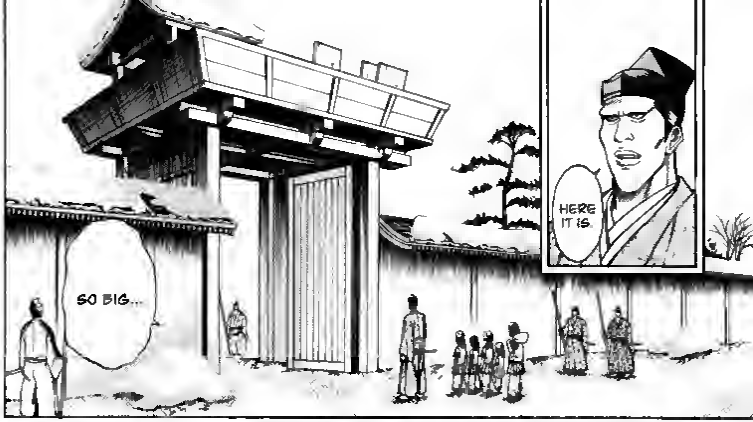
HE ALSO LIKES TO THROW SNOWBALLS AT STATUES FOR TARGET PRACTICES, AND I THINK HE'S ALREADY DAMAGED ONE HEAVILY...
.....
YES THIS CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE ANY FURTHER
AH... TOO MUCH FUN!
WHAT TO DO NEXT .
YOU GUYS WERE SAYING THAT THERE'S GONNA BE A FEAST?
YUP APPARENTLY, TONS OF PEOPLE ARE COMING
THAT MEANS USHIWAKA AND THE GANG...
YEAH, I HEARD KIYOMORI'S COMING?
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE FEAST THEY'LL BE THROWING TONIGHT?
OH?

KIYOMORI!
IT'S KIYOMORI'S FEAST.


AND HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW...
IS USHIWAKA GOING TO THIS SAME FEAST?

IF HE MEETS KIYOMORI, IT'S GAME OVER!

NOON
THIS IS SO STRESS-FUL.
WE'RE FINALLY HERE
BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING
WE PRACTI-CED THIS OVER AND OVER.
WE'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS WE PERFORM LIKE WE ALWAYS DO.
GOOD LUCK, USHIWAKA!
THE ONLY OPTION IS SUCCESS!
IF WE GET THIS RIGHT, WE'LL BE RICH
YEAH. YEAH.


HERE IT IS.
SO BIG...

SUCH A HUGE PALACE
WHO LIVES HERE?

!!!

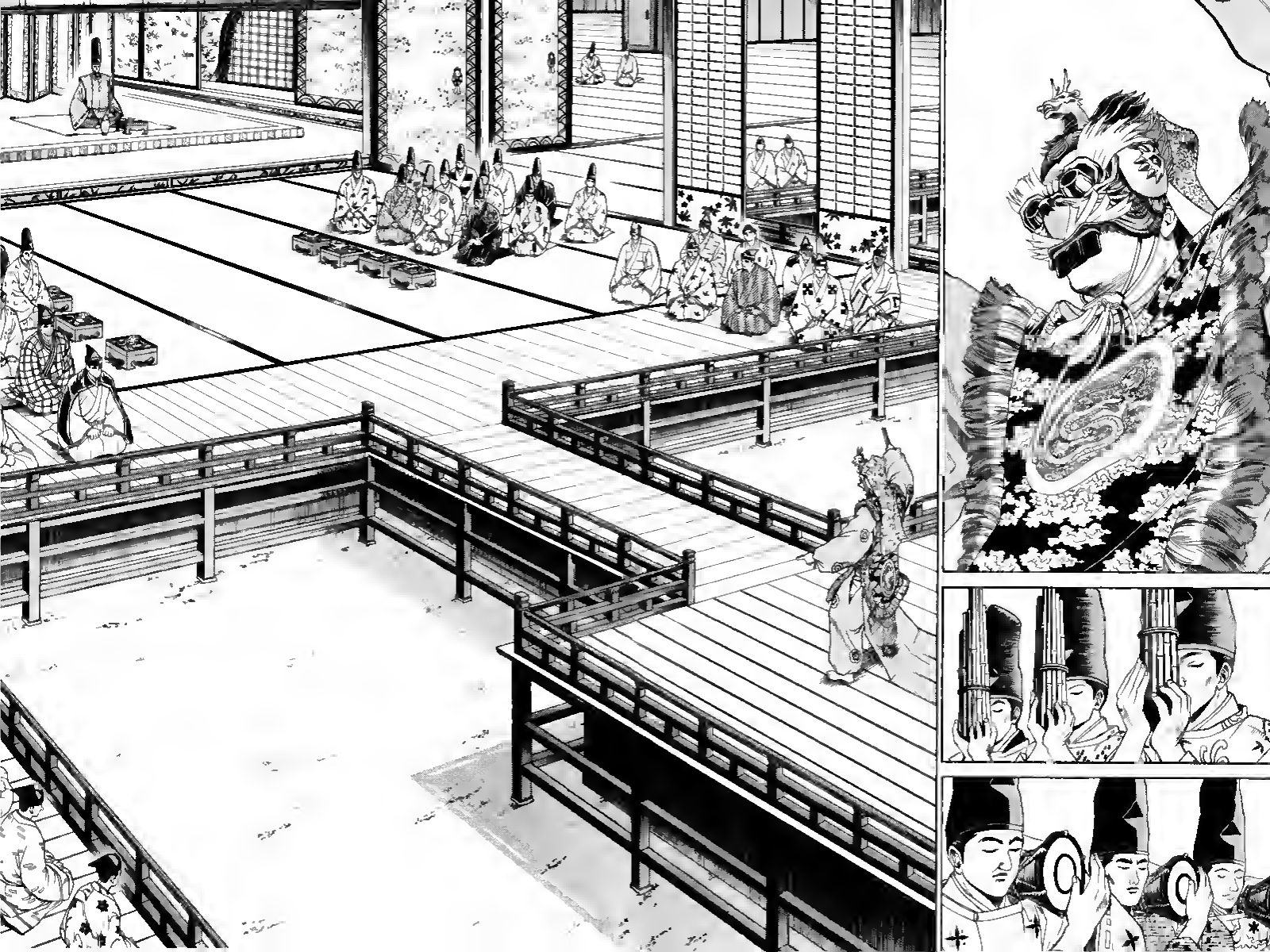
KI... KIYOMORI'S FEAST?

WE ARE GOING TO MASTER KIYOMORI'S FEAST.

IF THEY RECOGNIZE YOU...
THIS ISN'T GOOD, USHIWAKA!
I HAVE TO PERFORM IN FRONT OF KIYOMORI?
KEEP UP! DON'T LAG BEHIND!
KIYOMORI...
GOT, GOT IT
ブク
AND DON'T CALL ME USHIWAKA, CALL ME HYOUTA!
WE'LL LOOK SUSPICIOUS IF WE RUN FOR IT NOW.
AND FINISH THIS WITHOUT GETTING DISCOVERED.
WE HAVE TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL.

ACHU UUUM!
OH?
SNIFF SNIFF...
GOT A COLD 'CAUSE OF THAT KID... I HATE HIM
LET GO!
I HAVE TO LEAVE!
LITTLE BASTARD! SHANA OH!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!
LEAVE?
YOU'RE PLANNING ON ESCAPING?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR NONSENSE!

IF I DON'T GO, MY FRIEND WILL LOSE HIS LIFE!
LET... LET ME GO!
DON'T GO! USHIWAKA! YOU ARE GOING TO GET KILLED!
ARRGH!
BUT I WON'T BE FOOLED AGAIN!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, I GET IT
STAY AND REPENT HERE, FOR NOW.



In 1167, he would rise to become the Daijo Daijin, the highest position in court.
Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal (1066)
Right Nagon (1061)
Central Nagon (1065)
Kiyomori's rise to power was faster than any other before him.
Then Kiyomori was, no doubt, the second most powerful man in Japan.
If the emperor held the highest authority...

DON'T SAY SUCH SCARY THINGS!
ALL WE DID WAS GIVE HIM A HAIRCUT...
DO YOU THINK IT'LL BE OKAY? WE'LL BE RIGHT IN FRONT OF KIYOMORI...
WE'LL BE PUT TO DEATH IF WE'RE DISCOVERED...
YES!
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, SIR
WHAT?

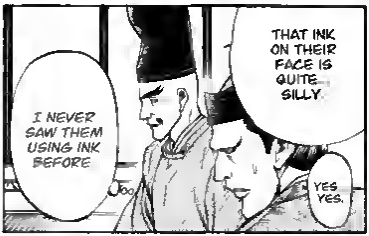
EH?
?
WE FORGOT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO USE SOME FOR OUR PERFORMANCE
INK?
DO YOU HAVE ANY INK WE COULD USE?
HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
WAIT FOR ME
IS IT?
I THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET...
EH... NO...

I CAN'T RISK HAVING ANYONE RECOGNIZE ME. SO I CAME UP WITH A PLAN
WHY DO YOU WANT INK?
PLAN?
ARE YOU READY?
YES
YOU'RE UP NEXT, RIGHT?
ドカ
IT'S ALL YOURS, NOW!

MY LORD!
I'VE PREPARED A SPECIAL EVENT FOR YOU.
THIS IS A WANDERING CIRCUS GROUP. I HOPE YOU'LL ENJOY THEIR PERFORMANCE.
WAN-DERING CIRCUS?
DO AS YOU WISH.
YES!
SEND THEM IN!

HERE! YOU'RE UP!
HE LOOKS A LOT LIKE THAT OTHER KID FROM...
AM I SEEING THINGS?
EVERYONE, GATHER AROUND!
LALALALALA!
BANG! BANG! BANG!
WE ARE THE TRAVELLING PERFORMERS CALLED-
ピーヒョロロー
ピーヒョロロー
ポーン
ポポーン

THE NOKOSHITA GROUP!


I NEVER SAW THEM USING INK BEFORE
THAT INK ON THEIR FACE IS QUITE SILLY.
YES, YES.

THUMP!
THUMP!
KIYOMORI!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!
HE'S LOOKING AT ME!
BUT HE'S TOO FAR AWAY TO RECOGNIZE ME, RIGHT?
PERHAPS HE WON'T RECOGNIZE ME AT ALL!

ヒュ

EVERYONE! OUR NEXT TRICK WILL BE BOX STACKING.
PLEASE GIVE US A ROUND OF APPLAUSE IF WE SUCCEED!

ドル
ドル

WOW! WOW!

TADA!
カン
TADA!
TADA!
パチパチパチパチパチパチ

ガン
TADA!

REA—
DY.
I'M COMING UP.
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON THIS!
FINALLY, IT'S TIME FOR THE MAN-STACKING TRICK! KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED!
TADA!
GASP!

JUST A BIT MORE!
ALMOST OVER!
THEY ARE REALLY GOOD!
WOW!
UGH!
!!?
SCREEEEEEECH!

COUGH!
COUGH!
COUGH!
COUGH!
UHN

DON'T TURN THEIR FOCUS ON ME.
KEEP GOING!

GACK!
GACK!
YOU OKAY?

ザワザワ
WHAT! THE LITTLE GIRL IS GOING TO JUMP?

PLEASE WATCH, EVERYONE! NOW IT'S MY TURN TO JUMP TO THE TOP!

ERR...

GACK!
GACK!

DAMN IT. TO THINK THIS WOULD HAPPEN!
GASP
GASP
GASP
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
HE'S LOOKING AT ME!

TWO!
I'M GOING UP! ONE!
THREE!
DANGER!
WOAH!
THAT HURTS...

I AM SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE THAT, SIR!
MY APOLOGIES!
THEY FAILED...
ARE YOU OKAY!
YES SIR. ONCE AGAIN, MY APOLOGIES!
LET THE SICK ONE REST.
AFTER ALL, HE IS SICK.
HYOUTA!
GASP!
GASP!

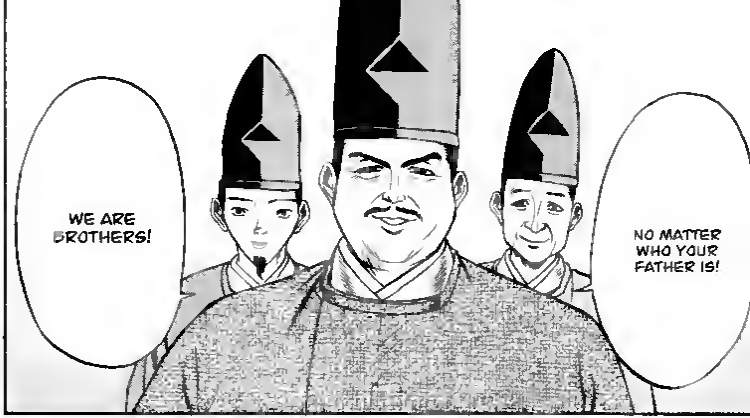
ELDER BROTHER! CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION!
TADANORI TAIRA
YOU LOOK DISPLEASED WITH THE FEAST. IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
NORIMORI TAIRA
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, SINCE OUR FAMILY'S POSITION IS NOW ECURE. WHY DON'T YOU RELAX?
HMM
TSUNEMORI TAIRA
?
HUH?
WAS IT NOT TOO FAST?

TO THINK THAT WE SAMURAIS, AS MERE GUARD DOGS OF THE ARISTOCRACY,
WOULD BE ABLE TO CLIMB THIS HIGH THIS MUST BE AN EXCEPTIONAL CASE
OF COURSE IT IS BUT IF ONE IS BORN OF NOBLE BLOOD
HIS SITUATION IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS, BROTHER!
YOU ARE LUCKY.
TO REMEMBER WHO YOUR FATHER WAS

NOW, WHO IS MY FATHER?
IS IT TADANORI?
OR—
THE DECEASED EMPEROR, SHIRAKAWA TENNO?
BROTHER! YOU MUSN'T SAY THAT!
OUR FATHER IS TAIRA TADANORI!
HEH EH—
I MUST SEEM SO SILLY TO YOU.
FOR A GROWN MAN LIKE ME TO BE WORRYING ABOUT SUCH THINGS...

BUT THAT IS FINE.
NOT HAVING TO UNDERSTAND THE VOID I FEEL...
IS BETTER FOR YOU.
A CHILD WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HIS FATHER'S NAME...
CANNOT FILL SUCH A VOID
NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL HE BECOMES
.....

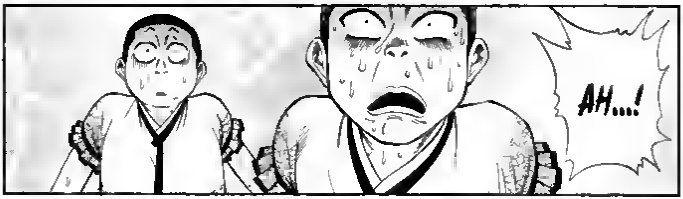
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE THE LEADER OF THE TAIRA FAMILY!
IGNORE THE RUMORS! DON'T TALK ABOUT SUCH DEPRESSING MATTERS
BRO-THER!
EVEN IF I HAVE TO DIE DOING SO
I KNOW THAT AND I WILL PROTECT THE TAIRA FAMILY
THIS STRANGER WHOSE PAST IS A MYSTERY?
WON'T YOU HELP ME,
ANYONE WHO OPPOSES THE FAMILY SHALL BE SWIFTLY ELIMINATED!
NO! I WILL KEEP EXPANDING THE FAMILY'S POWERS!
DON'T SAY THAT!


WE ARE BROTHERS!
NO MATTER WHO YOUR FATHER IS!

THAN THE TITLE OF DAIJO DAIJIN.
THAT MAKES ME HAPPIER...

AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE PRETTY GOOD!
YOU MADE ME LOSE FACE! IN FRONT OF EVERYONE!
WE'RE SORRY!
"SORRY" DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO GIVE IT JUSTICE!
ARE YOU JOKING?!
LEAVE!
YE... YES...
!!
GIVE ME SOME ROOM.
WHAT?!

ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?


AH...!

KI... KIYO-MORI ..

HE'S HAD SOME REST, SO HE'S BETTER NOW
WHY IS HE HERE?
REALLY? AS LONG AS HE RECOVERS
YOUR SHOW WAS ENTERTAINING
THANK YOU, SIR!
HE IS SO CLOSE...
THE MAN WHO KILLED MY FATHER...
IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...
IF ONLY I COULD MOVE
IF ONLY I HAD A WEAPON
I WOULD
I WOULD DEFINITELY KILL HIM!

HMM?
フッ
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
YOU DIDN'T WIPE OFF THE SWEAT?
WE'LL DO IT OUR-SELVES!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE...
IT'S OK.
WIPE
WIPE

I WIPE SWEAT OFF HIS FACE ALL THE TIME
BUT HIS HEALTH IS VERY POOR..
I HAVE A CHILD ABOUT YOUR AGE..
SO, I COULDN'T HELP BUT TO COME HERE AND DO THE SAME.
SO LET ME DO THIS.
IS IT TOO COLD?
WIPE
WIPE

ARE YOU STILL FEELING ILL?
STOP!
YOU'RE THE ENEMY!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR GENTLE SIDE!
STOP!

STOP!
USHI.
THIS IS AMAZ-ING
TO THINK SOMEONE SO GREAT IS WIPING YOUR SWEAT OFF FOR YOU
HYOUTA..
AH...!

ゴゴゴ

!!?
YOU ARE VERY SKILLED ON THE FLUTE!
PLAY IT FOR ME WHEN YOU RECOVER!
OKAY, HYOUTA?
THANKS
REST WELL

SO SORRY
RIN' THAT WAS CLOSE!
PHEW
I MEAN, HE IS OF SUCH A HIGH STANDING, BUT STILL TREATED US WELL
HE LOOKED LIKE SUCH A GOOD GUY
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE FOOLED HIM
I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS AT ALL FROM HIM

YES!
LISTEN
EH?
SEND IN THE AGENTS
……
ピタ
I WANT TO FIND OUT EVERYTHING I CAN ABOUT THEM!
END OF CHAPTER 17

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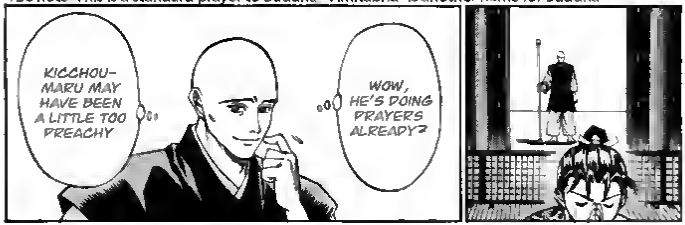
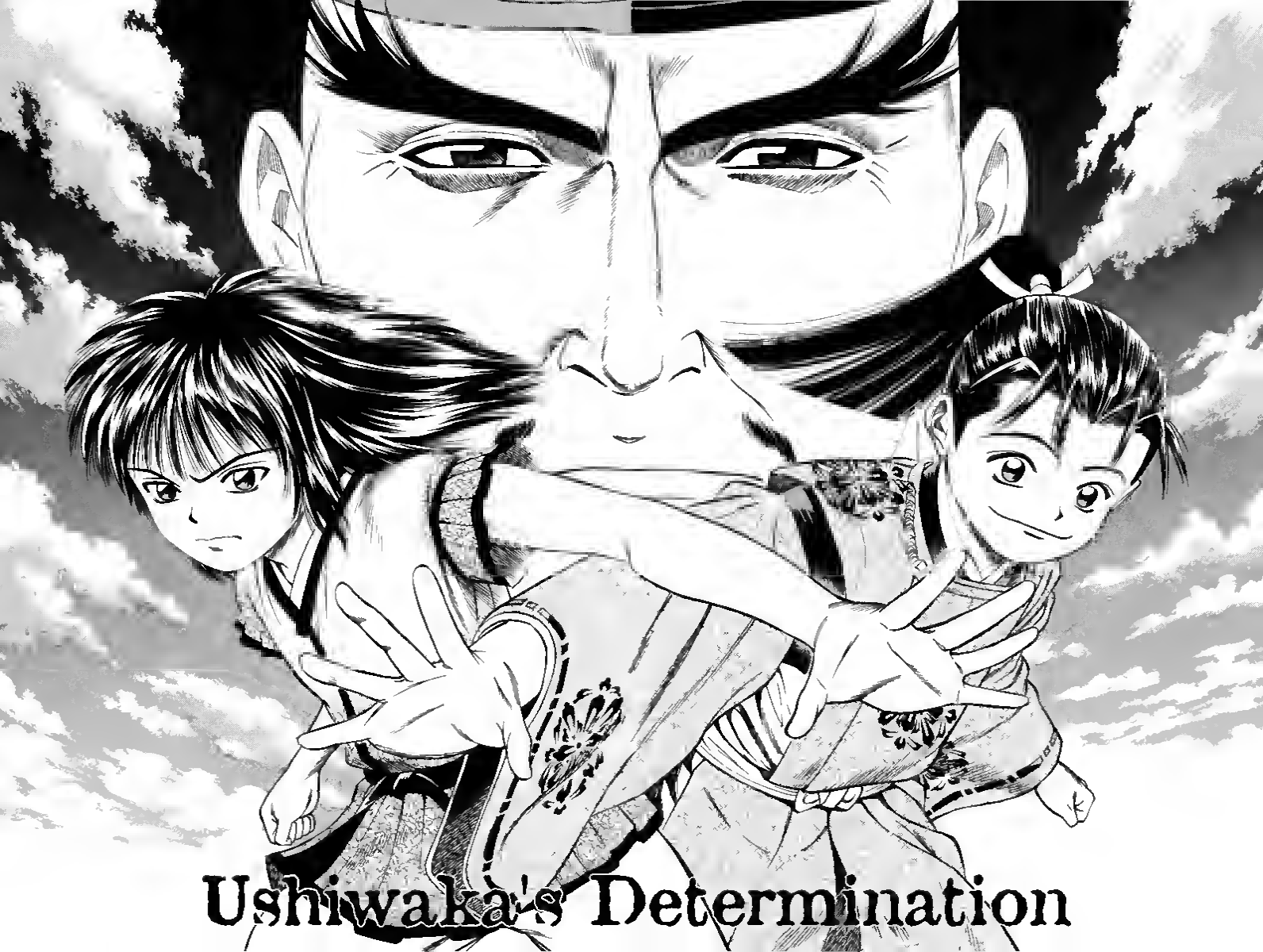
TL's note: This is a standard prayer to Buddha. "Amitabha" is another name for Buddha.



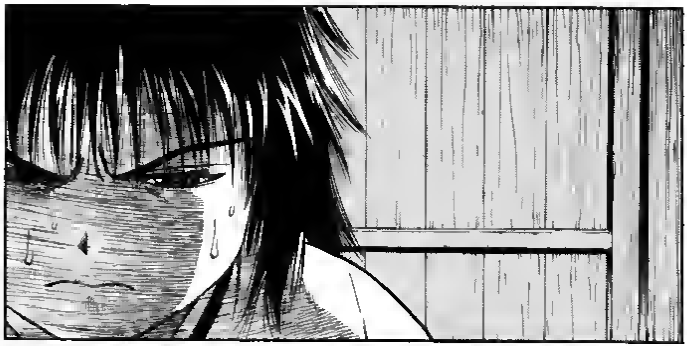

Ushiwaka's Determination

HE'S BACK!
AH!
MY, ISN'T THIS A RARE SIGHT
TOKOU-SAMA
TOKOU-SAMA? YOU WENT INTO TOWN, RIGHT?
DID YOU HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT KIYOMORI'S FEAST?
WHAT HAPPENED?
SOMETHING ABOUT A CHILDREN'S CIRCUS, FOR EXAMPLE?
BUT THEY JUST WENT HOME, NOTHING REALLY HAPPENED.
FAILED!
YOU KNOW A LOT YES, THERE WAS A CHILDREN'S CIRCUS.
BUT I HEARD THAT THEY FAILED THEIR PERFORMANCE

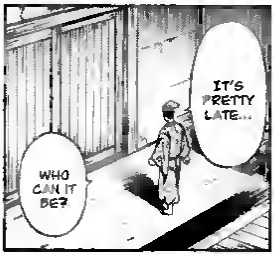
THANK GOD...
PHEW —
ペロ〜リ
REALLY? THEY GOT HOME SAFELY?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S RIGHT - THOSE KIDS IN THE CIRCUS ARE YOUR FRIENDS, AREN'T THEY?
YUP.
YOU WERE PRAYING BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT THEM.
THAT'S GOOD.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT KIYOMORI HERE, SO EVEN IF THEY GOT HOME
IT STILL MIGHT NOT BE OVER..

HAHA HAHA HAA ...
I DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT FOOD OR CLOTHING FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR...
HAHAHA HAHA...
I'VE NEVER SEE THIS MUCH MONEY BEFORE!
MANAGE THE MONEY FOR YOU GUYS
ALL RIGHT, LET THE ADULT HERE...
"ギロ"
DON'T USE IT WITHOUT MY PERMI-SSION!
YOU GUYS DID A GREAT JOB!

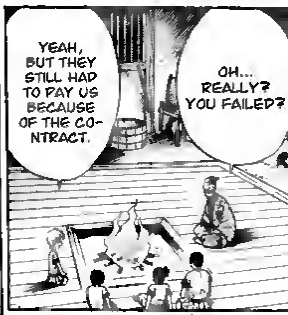
OH, RIGHT. HOW WAS KIYOMORI? WAS HE AS SCARY AS THE STORIES SAY?
NO, KIYO-MORI-SAMA WAS VERY KIND.
UN... UNDER-STOOD.
YEA, WE SHOULDA KEPT HALF...
I KNEW HE WASN'T PLANNING ON GIVING US ANYTHING.
NO NO...
THAT'S SO NICE. USUALLY, GREAT PEOPLE WOULDN'T DO THAT KIND OF STUFF
OH—
HE EVEN WIPED THE SWEAT OFF USHIWAKA'S FACE
UH?
I WILL NOT BE DECEIVED!
THAT WAS DEFINITELY NOT HIM!



SNIFF
SNIFF


IT'S PRETTY LATE...
WHO CAN IT BE?

ドドド
ドドド
HUH?


OH... REALLY? YOU FAILED?
YEAH, BUT THEY STILL HAD TO PAY US BECAUSE OF THE CONTRACT.

ス
ガラ

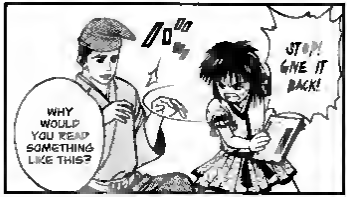
HA HA HA!
WOW, THAT'S REALLY FORTUNATE!

WHO... WHO ARE YOU?
!!?
CLACK!
CLACK!
CLACK!
PLEASE LET ME USE YOUR FIRE
I BEG
HE'S FREE-ZING?

SORRY TO BE A BOTHER...
HAVE SOME TEA IT'S WARM IT SHOULD HELP.
ISN'T IT WINDY AND SNOWING OUTSIDE? WHY WERE YOU TRAVELLING ALONE?
I'M NOT PROUD OF IT, BUT I RAN AWAY BECAUSE THE TRAINING WAS TOO TOUGH
MY NAME IS AH GEN. I'M STUDYING BLADEMAKING.
TO TELL THE TRUTH
TO MAKE IT WORSE, I RAN AWAY WITHOUT MY SHOES.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GO AFTER THAT.

I THINK YOU SHOULD GO APOLOGIZE TO YOUR MASTER.
WE HAVE FIVE KIDS HERE ALREADY THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
AH NO, NO, NO.
PL... PLEASE!
LET ME STAY TILL SPRING!
I CAN... PAY RENT.
HYOUTA, COME HERE
LET ME INTROPUCE EVERYONE
ジンスケ
NO PROBLEM!
YOU CAN EVEN EXTEND YOUR STAY TILL SUMMER!

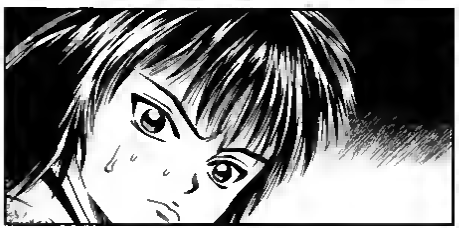
HEY, IT'S YOUR TURN TO CLEAR THE SNOW!
NO, IT'S NOT MINE!


STOP! GIVE IT BACK!
WHY WOULD YOU READ SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

WHAT'S THIS?
A BLADE THAT STRIKES INTO FLESH DOES NOT ALWAYS KILL. TWISTING IT OFTEN FINISHES THE JOB.
WOW, YOUR BOOKS ARE REALLY SCARY

I LIKE STRATEGY AND WAR!

OH—



HEY, AH GEN, COME OUT AND PLAY
OH, OF COURSE

RUN AWAY!
STOP-
HAHA HAHA...
ICE
UH?
REALLY? I THINK AH GEN IS NICE AND FUNNY
YOU CAN PLAY BY YOURSELF
WHATEVER
I... THINK THAT GUY...
IS A LITTLE SCARY...
YOU DON'T WANT TO PLAY WITH US?
HEY!
NO...
WHY?

AH—
I'M GOING TO PEE.
ドゴゴ
……
WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S WEIRD—
I FEEL LIKE WE ARE BEING WATCHED.
OH— SO YOU AREN'T FROM HERE?
YEAH, WE'VE ONLY BEEN HERE FOR ABOUT A YEAR.

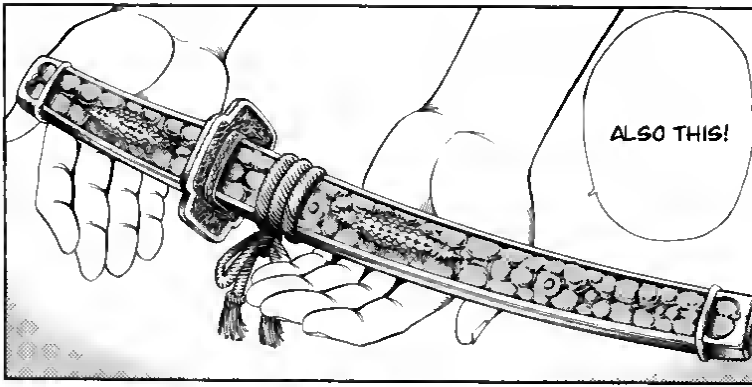
BEING WATCHED?
UMM... I SAW SOME WEIRD SHADOW I THINK IT WAS A PERSON.
IT COULD BE THIEVES
TH... THIEVES?
WHAT IF I GET KIDNAPPED AGAIN...
DON'T WORRY... I'LL PROTECT YOU. I PROMISE!

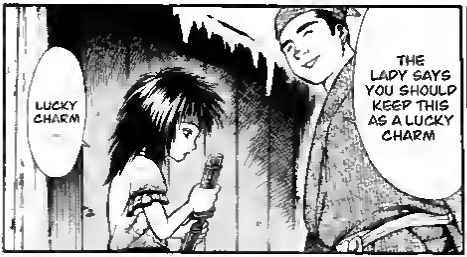
THERE!
ARG HH!
UGH
GET OUT, RIGHT NOW!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE!
BUT THIS PLACE IS OFF-LIMITS!

DON'T WORRY, OKAY?
IF HE COMES BACK I'LL DRIVE HIM AWAY IMMEDIATELY.
IS HE... GONE?
HE RAN AWAY.
YOU GOT HIM FROM THIS DISTANCE?
AWESOME!
THANKS, AH GEN!
WHOA!
AH GEN IS TOO COOL!
YOU BROUGHT LITTLE DAGGERS?
THAT'S ALL I KNOW HOW TO MAKE.
I ONLY TOOK SOME OF MY BETTER WORKS.

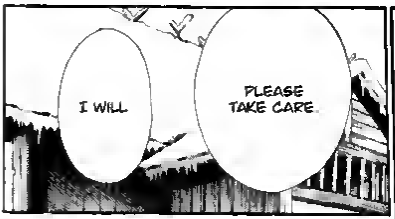
OH—
WO-
RTHLESS
THIEF!
IF THE THIEF GOT IN HERE, I WOULD HAVE BEATEN HIM UP!
SIGH
...
UMM...
AND LOOK WHO WAS CLUTCHING DESPERATELY ONTO THE MONEY BEFORE?
...
BUT HE LOOKS OKAY
IT'S HARD TO TELL NOW
OR AM I OVER-THINKING THIS?
HYOUTA, DO YOU THINK AH GEN IS SCARY?

LET ME HELP CLEAN THE ROOF.
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, THEN
IS THAT HYOUTA'S FAMILY?
IT'S A FRIEND WHO DELIVERS MEDICINE TO HIM
OH—
YOUNG MASTER, IS EVERYTHING FINE?
WE HEARD ABOUT THE FEAST. NOTHING HAPPENED, RIGHT?
WE'RE FINE NOW.
SORRY TO BE A BOTHER.
I HAVE LETTERS FROM THE LADY
AND YOUR MEDICINE.


ALSO THIS!


LUCKY CHARM
THE LADY SAYS YOU SHOULD KEEP THIS AS A LUCKY CHARM

A BLADE?


I WILL
PLEASE TAKE CARE.

OH. THAT'S AH GEN HE'S SPENDING THE WINTER HERE.
THERE'S A NEW STRANGER HERE IS IT OKAY?

SAY HELLO TO EVERYONE FOR ME.
SEE YOU NEXT MONTH

パラ
MOTHER...

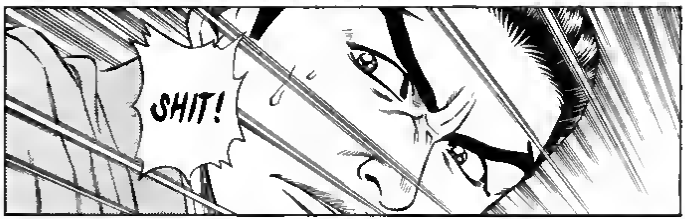
THE PALACE.
I WAS SPYING ON THEM HIDDEN, OF COURSE BUT HE SUDDENLY THREW A KNIFE AT ME...
UMM...
WHAT? YOU RAN AWAY?
BUT KIYOMORI-SAMA ASKED US TO INVE-STIGATE THOSE KIDS...
WHAT DOES HE WANT TO KNOW? I DON'T GET IT...
WHATEVER, I THINK THIS IS FINE
LET THE OTHER GUY DO ALL THE WORK
YES.
DID YOU DO ANYTHING THAT REVEALED YOUR POSITION?
NO... I DOUBT IT...
NEVER MIND. I SUPPOSE THERE IS NO NEED FOR WORRY.

zz
zz
zz
zz
zz
zz
ス——

LISHIWAKA, IS YOUR HEALTH STILL OKAY?
IS THIS IT?

I HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE FEAST. WE'RE VERY LUCKY THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO GET BACK SAFELY. BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HEALTH, SO I WANTED TO ASK YOU IN THIS LETTER.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WENT TO THAT FEAST, BUT PLEASE BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME. DON'T MAKE A MESS FOR OTHERS.
USHI-WAKA?
HYOUTA WAS ESPECIALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU! HE IS ALREADY ACTING AS YOUR DOUBLE SO DON'T MAKE IT HARDER FOR HIM. TAKE CARE! I WILL WRITE TO YOU AGAIN, SOON. MOTHER
!!
DOUBLE?
AND THE DOUBLE IS THE ONE IN THE TEMPLE!
SO USHIWAKA IS THIS KID,
THIS IS IT!
THIS IS WHAT KIYOMORI-SAMA WAS WORRIED ABOUT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?


SHIT!

YOU CAN'T LOOK AT OTHER PEOPLE'S LETTERS!
AH- HYOUTA'S LETTER!

SCRAM!
UH?
AH! RIN!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH MY LETTER!

I'M GOING TO KIYOMORI-SAMA, OF COURSE, FOR MY REWARD!

KIYOMORI!

KIYO-MORI!!
STAY HERE!
SO YOU WERE LYING TO US!
GIVE ME MY LETTER!
BUNCH OF BRATS!
AN-NOYING! SCRAM!

IF HE TAKES THAT LETTER...
HE'LL BLOW MY COVER!
HYOUTA MIGHT LOSE HIS LIFE...!
AND JUDGING FROM WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST...
ALL OF HYOUTA'S HARD WORK WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING
IF AH GEN TAKES IT TO KIYOMORI,

WHATEVER HAPPENS TO ME, HYOUTA...
NO!
SHING!

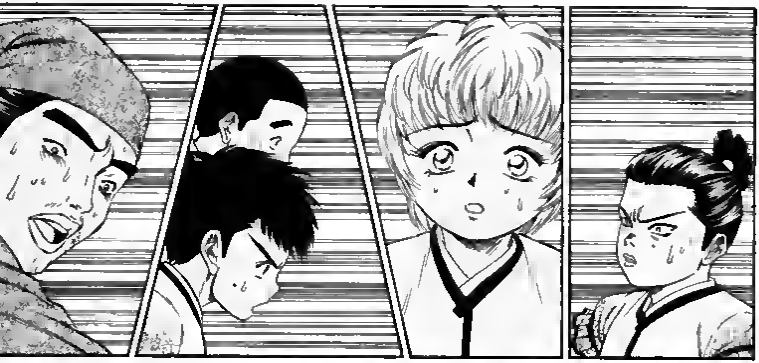
!!
AGH!
GET OFF!
GET AWAY FROM THE DOOR!
BUT I'M ON THE CHILDREN'S SIDE, SO DON'T TRY TO RUN!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

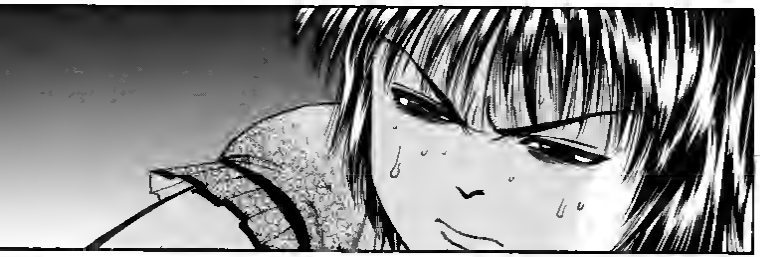
ボッ
ウォ
カッ
DON'T THINK YOU ARE GETTING OFF EASY!
SCUM... LET GO OF ME!
AH!
WHAT A JOKE!

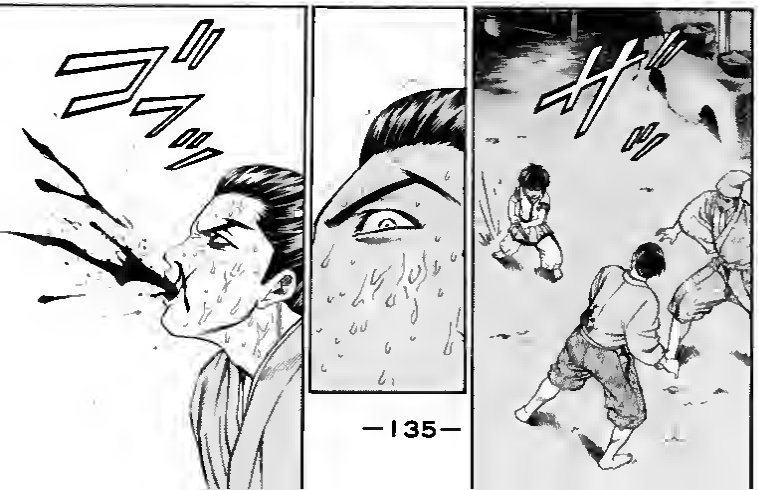
AH!

YOU..
YOU...
ボト
ボト

HUFF!
AHH HHHH HHH H!
TWIST!
TWIST!






ゴッ
ザッ

ドサッ
カラン カラン
PUFF!
PUFF!
PUFF!
THIS SHOULD ..
YOU YOU...
MAKE ..

IT EASIER FOR HYOUTA...!
HAA...HAA...GWAH!
USHIWA-KA!
UGH!
RIGHT. RIGHT!

YOU HAVE TO RUN AWAY.
ゴゴゴ
THERE'S NOT MUCH WE CAN DO NOW
UH?
CHANGE INTO THOSE
BUT YOU ARE TOO EASILY DISTINGUI-SHED.
レレレ

I OFTEN HEAR YOU GUYS TALKING AND ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T KNOW THE EXACT SITUATION,
I STILL MADE PREPARATIONS JUST IN CASE. LIKE THE CLOTHES.
WHY DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES?
YOU... YOU
THERE'S A BAG FOR EACH OF YOU
THE MONEY YOU MADE ARE IN THE BAGS.
BUT I FEAR THE SAME DOES NOT APPLY TO YOU, CORRECT?
THE OTHER KIDS ARE HEALTHY AND USED TO TRAVELLING, SO THEY SHOULD BE FINE GOING ANYWHERE.
USHI-WAKA.

YOU MUST BE NOBLE-BORN, AND THOSE LETTERS WERE WRITTEN BY YOUR PARENTS, RIGHT?
IF YOU HAVE SUCH GOOD PARENTS, PERHAPS IT IS BETTER TO GO BACK SO THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU.
HE IS A LOT MORE PERCEPTIVE THAN WE THOUGHT
USHIWAKA, I FEEL THAT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU
うぅ
NO!! I DON'T WANT USHIWA-KA TO... LEAVE!
I DON'T WANT IT!
DON'T CRY ABOUT IT! THERE'S NO POINT!
WAAH!

THINGS TURNED OUT THIS WAY BECAUSE OF ME.
SORRY, RIN.
JUST BEAR IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE, OKAY?
OF COURSE! WE'RE JUST SEPARATING TEMPORARILY
REALLY? FOR SURE?
FOR SURE!
BUT WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
I'LL BEAR IT.
OKAY
RIN...

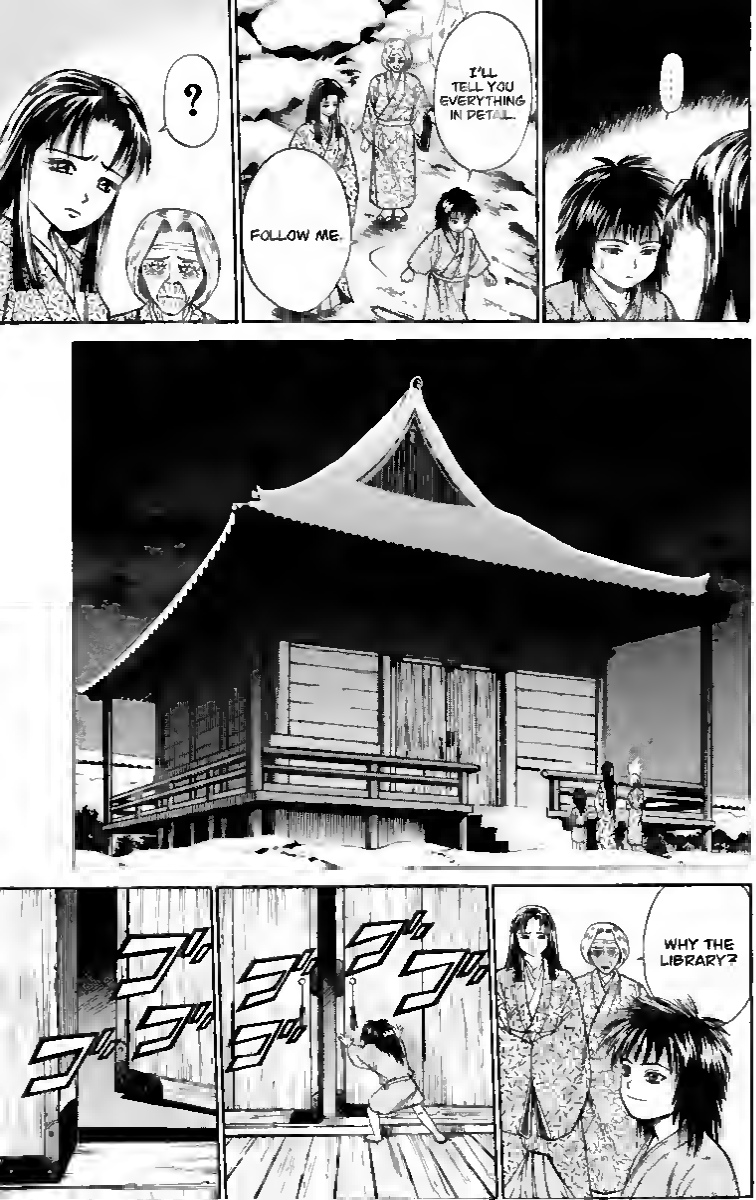
SORRY...
SORRY..
TAKE CARE!
YOU TWO!
TRAVEL SAFELY HOME!
DON'T FORGET TO PRACTICE TRICKS!
DON'T FORGET US!

THANKS, EVERYONE.
BYE!
BYE!
BYE!
USHIWAKA!
RIN...

SURE YOU TOO.
PLEASE TAKE CARE.
THANKS FOR BEING OUR HOST DURING ALL THIS TIME.
BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU GO BACK.
DON'T GIVE UP! USHIWAKA!
A NOBLE BOY WHO HAS BOTH WIT AND WISDOM. YET, IS MANIPULATED BY FATE

FEW DAYS LATER.
USHI-WAKA'S HOME
LADY.
LADY.
HUH?
I'LL TAKE YOU OVER THERE.
WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THIS LATE HOUR?
?
WHAT IS GOING ON?
PLEASE FOLLOW ME.

!!
MOM, I'M BACK.
USHI-WAKA!
YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH IN THIS PAST YEAR.
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
NO.
IS YOUR HEALTH OKAY?
YES
YOU'VE GROWN.
WHAT HAPPE-NED?
BUT, I THOUGHT YOU WERE NEVER COMING BACK?


?
FOLLOW ME.
I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING IN DETAIL.
!
ゴゴゴ

AH?
I'LL LIVE HERE FROM NOW ON.
MY APOLOGIES WE HAVEN'T BEEN CLEANING IT BECAUSE ONLY THE YOUNG MASTER VISITS THIS PLACE.
SUCH NOSTALGIA.
IT'S BEEN A YEAR

IF THEY DO, ALL OF HYOUTA'S WORK WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING.
THE TAIRA AREN'T PAYING AS MUCH ATTENTION TO THIS PLACE ANYMORE.
AND TRY TO HELP HYOUTA.
I'LL JUST READ HERE.
BUT STILL, IF I LIVED IN THE HOUSE, THEY'D TAKE NOTICE.

I'VE DECIDED.
TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE HERE!
WHAT?!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS!
ISN'T THAT...
EVEN WORSE THAN WHEN YOU LEFT THE HOUSE?
THIS IS NOT A SOLITARY DETENTION.
THE ONE WHO CAN ACCOMPLISH MY GOALS IS OUTSIDE
HE SHALL INHERIT MY LIFE.

IS DOING THIS FOR HYOUTA.
HE...
YOU ARE SERIOUS?
USHIWAKA HAS CHANGED A LOT IN ONE YEAR
THIS IS THE LOOK OF DETE-RMINATION A GROWN MAN WOULD HAVE

WHAT?! GONE?
TAIRA.

HOW... WHAT HAPPENED?
THE KIDS ARE GONE TOO!
YES! IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS SINCE THE SPY CORRESPONDED WITH US!

HE WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU
KIYOMORI-SAMA HAS SENT ME
SIR.

HOW SHOULD I TELL KIYOMORI-SAMA THOSE NEWS.

INNER HOUSE

...HOW IS IT?
WHAT DO WE KNOW?
THERE YOU ARE

UM...
THE SPY HAS MADE CONCLUSIVE FINDINGS!
THE...
YES... YES...
THE...
JUST YOUR AVERAGE PEASANT ENTERTAINERS. NOTHING SPECIAL.
THEY ARE JUST NORMAL CHILDREN, WHO TRAVELLED FROM FAR AWAY.
NOTHING TO DO WITH USHIWAKA, THEN..
I SEE.
YES!

IS THERE A PROBLEM?
NO...
IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR FAMILY, I MUST BE VERY, VERY CAREFUL.
SO I HAVE SOME TRUST ISSUES...
HA.
TO BE MIGHTY AND PRESTIGIOUS...
IS QUITE A CHORE...

YES, THANK YOU
USHIWAKA, IS IT OKAY?
THIS SHOULD BE EVERY THING YOU NEED
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
……
ガッ
ゴゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ

END OF CHAPTER 18

EASY GOING SCANS

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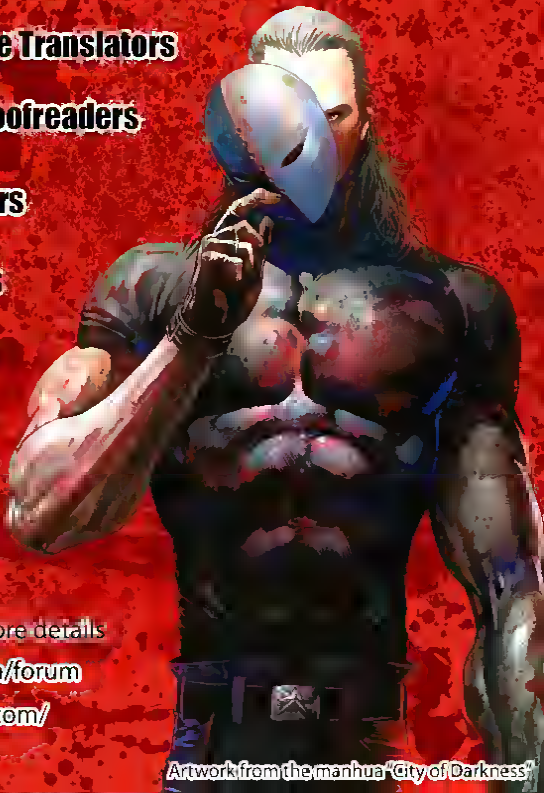

Artwork from the manhua "City of Darkness"

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by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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Underground
Leader

To Master Ushiwaka,
For now, I've returned home.
A lot of things have happened. I've already left the group a week ago.
Please forgive me for being unable to help you, and for returning home alone.
Chirp
Chirp
I'll keep studying at home.
And increase my knowledge.
Everything that I learn
I shall teach to you.

I WILL NEVER LEAVE THIS ROOM...
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, ALL FOR YOUR SAKE.

FIRSTLY, I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO LEARN THE ART OF WAR. I WANT YOU TO LEARN
HOW TO CAPTURE THE KING BEFORE THE THIEF.

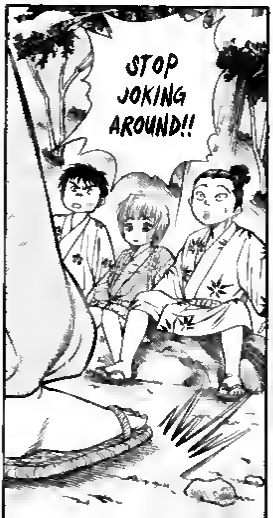
ゴクッ…
REDO IT!
WHAT!! WHY?? I'VE ALREADY RE-DONE IT TWICE!
YOU DON'T LOVE THIS HOUSE ENOUGH! DO IT SERIOUSLY!
UGH

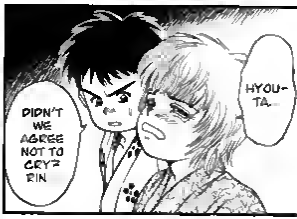
SHUT UP! I'M SHANA OH NOW!
HEY, USHI-WAKA!
MASTER USHIKAWA!
DAMN KITSUCHYOU FOR ALWAYS ORDERING ME AROUND!
THAT THICK-BROWS!
OH, RIGHT!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
YOU SEEM REALLY ENERGETIC

IF THE HEIKE FAMILY FINDS OUT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH USHIW-K...
BUT...DIDN'T I SAY YOU CAN'T COME BACK HERE?
AH.
RIN, YOU'VE GROWN!
IT'S YOU GUYS AGAIN? LONG TIME NO SEE!
ガシッ
WHAT?
IT'S NOT THAT.
うるっ
GOODBYE?
Hyouta ...
We come here to say goodbye.

WE NEED TO RUN AWAY TO A PLACE WHERE NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO FIND US
SO THIS IS THE LAST TIME...
WE CAN EVER SEE YOU

SO, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO USHIWAKA...


STOP JOKING AROUND!!


HYOU-TA...
DIDN'T WE AGREE NOT TO CRY? RIN

YOU...YOU GUYS ARE PLANNING TO LEAVE THE LEADER?!
SHUT UP!
IF WE STAY HERE WE'LL BRING TROUBLE FOR EVERYONE
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, HYOUTA WHETHER IT'S FOR HYOUTA OR USHIWAKA,
EVEN YOU GUYS ARE LEAVING ME...
HAVEN'T WE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER SINCE WE WERE YOUNG?
I DON'T WANT TO!
I CAN'T STAND NOT KNOWING WHERE YOU GUYS ARE!

HYOUTA...
DON'T LEAVE ME BY MYSELF...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
LET'S ALL LIVE HERE, TOGE-THER!
I KNOW! I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!

HEY, SHANA!
FINISHED CLEANING?
OF... OF COURSE I FINISHED A WHILE AGO...
LETTER FOR YOU
OH, IT'S FROM USHI-WAKA
HMM?
WEIRD WHY SO LITTLE RICE LEFT?
SERIOUSLY, HASN'T THAT GUY SUFFERED ENOUGH...
AH! HEY! SHANA!!

JERKY?
L... LATELY, MY STOMACH'S ALWAYS BEEN GROWLING...
IT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH FOR ME, SO..
VEGE-TABLES ARE FINE TOO
IS THERE ANY EXTRA FOOD?
WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT WON'T DO
NOT BEING A GLUTTON WITH FOOD IS ALSO A PART OF TRAINING
MASTER KAMAJII IS HERE
?
WHO'S THAT?
NO
PLEASE, BROTHER RYOUKEN!
KAMAJII?
BROTHER RYOUKEN

WE HAVEN'T SEEN MASTER KAMAJI IN A WHILE
IT SEEMS YOU'RE IN GOOD SPIRITS. AND YOU LOOK HEALTHY AS WELL.

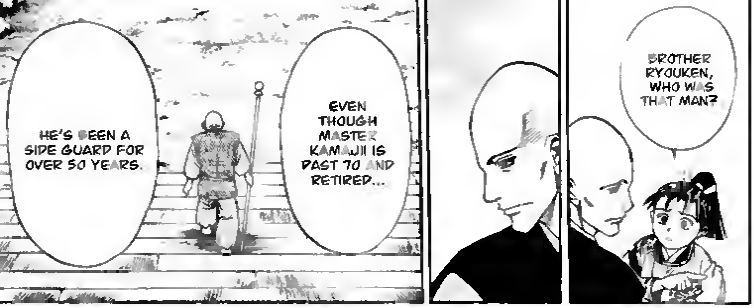
UGH...
I DON'T NEED ANY LIP SERVICE.
IT MAKES ME SICK TO LISTEN.
AH... OF COURSE
WE ARE ALL PRACTICING REGULARLY.
THAT'S RIGHT, RYOUKEN, IS THE TRAINING GOING WELL?
DO I NEED TO REPEAT MYSELF?
THOSE TWO OVER THERE...
TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES
WHAT?

?
ヒュー!!!
UGH!

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU...?

I STOP BY ONCE IN A BLUE MOON, ONLY TO FIND YOU IN SUCH A DECREPIT CONDITION! YOU'RE TOO SLOW, RYOUKEN.
HOW DARE YOU SAY YOU ARE TRAINING REGULARLY WHEN YOU'RE SHOWING OPENINGS EVERYWHERE!
I'LL LOOK OVER YOUR TERRIBLE DEFENSE AND BALANCE FOR NOW
BUT A BATTLE CAN HAPPEN IN AN INSTANT ONLY THOSE AS STURDY AS ROCK CAN PROTECT PEOPLE
IT'S NOT ABOUT APPEARANCE. YOUR HEART SHOULD ALWAYS BE READY!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, RYOUKEN?!
Y... YES, SIR
OH? THAT OLD MAN
WAS ABLE TO TRIP BROTHER RYOUKEN SO EASILY AMAZING

THIS ISN'T A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN PLAY AROUND
GO HOME!
THAT LITTLE BRAT HIDING THERE...
EH?
H... HEY, SHANA!
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
WHAT? I HAVE THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE!
HUSH! SHANA!
WHAT DID YOU SAY? YOU DIRTY OLD MAN! COME BACK!
IT'S JUST A STINKING BRAT!
.....
SHANA, AS IN SHANA OH?
JUST AS THE RUMORS SAY...!

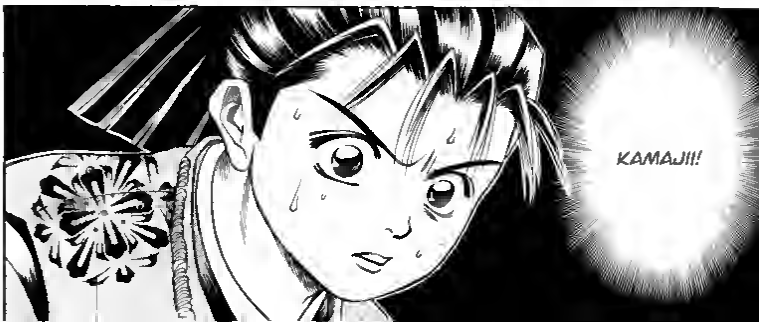

BROTHER RYOUKEN, WHO WAS THAT MAN?
EVEN THOUGH MASTER KAMAJII IS PAST 70 AND RETIRED...
HE'S BEEN A SIDE GUARD FOR OVER 50 YEARS.

HE'S FOUGHT COUNTLESS BATTLES, AND IS THE OLDEST SIDE GUARD IN HISTORY
HE'S THE ROLE MODEL FOR ALL SIDE GUARDS.

DOES HE EVER SMILE?
RUMORS SAYS, HE ONLY LAUGHS IN FRONT OF HIS GRANDSON.
BUT WE'VE NEVER SEEN IT.
THAT STUPID OLD MAN!
I KNOW
MASTER KAMAJII HAS NO MERCY TOWARDS CHILDREN.
BUT BE CAREFUL NOT TO GO OVER-BOARD.

JUST STAY HERE. NOT MANY PEOPLE COME THIS WAY.
THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEMS, FOR NOW.
MASTER USHIWA-KA?
THAT'S RIGHT. USHIWAKA SENT ME A LETTER.
I SEE
IF HE'S HOME, THE MISTRESS WILL PROTECT HIM NO MATTER WHAT.
THAT'S GOOD.
WHAT DID IT SAY?
HE'S RETURNED HOME SAFELY
SEEMS LIKE HE'S FINE

WHAT?
SEEMS LIKE IT'S A STRATEGY OF WAR
CAPTURE THE KING BEFORE THE THIEF?
HMM?
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DESTROY AN ARMY IF YOU CAPTURE ITS HEAD. AN ARMY WITHOUT ITS LEADER WILL FALL APART. THEY'LL BE CAUGHT IN A DRAGON'S TRAP
IF YOU WANT TO CATCH A THIEF, YOU MUST FIRST CATCH THE KING
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
USHIWAKA REALLY LIKES TO RAMBLE ABOUT THE ART OF WAR
WHAT'S THE POINT OF STUDYING THIS KIND OF THING?


KAMAJI!

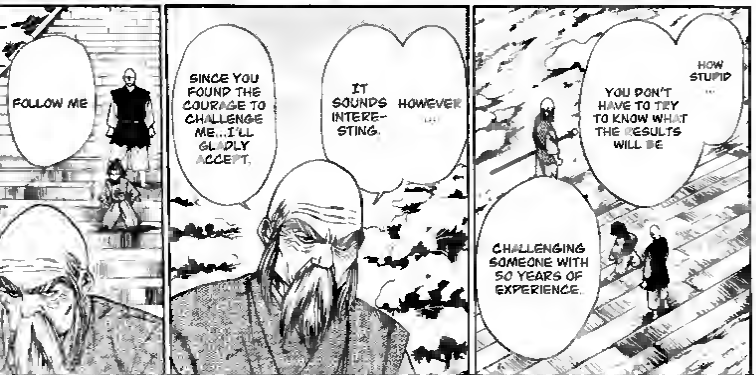
BROTHER RYOUKEN! PLEASE HELP!
THEY'RE ALL MY FRIENDS!
!!?
MASTER KAMAJII, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
THEY ARE CRIMINALS WHO BROKE THE LAW!
THEY'LL BE THROWN OUT AND FORBIDDEN FROM EVER COMING HERE AGAIN.
WH... WHAT?! WAIT!
PLEASE!
LET THEM STAY!

NO...I CAN'T DO THAT.
THIS IS TOO SUDDEN...
AND AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU NEED MASTER KAMAJII'S APPROVAL.
I...I KNOW!
LET THEM BECOME SOLDIERS!
ALL BROTHER RYOUKEN HAS TO DO IS NOD, AND THEY CAN BECOME TRAINEES!

NO.
GRR...
WILL ONLY BRING TROUBLE FOR OTHERS. THEY ARE COMPLETELY USELESS.
ALLOWING THESE WEAK, LITTLE BRATS TO ENTER...

WE'LL DECIDE BY FIGHTING!
TH...THEN!

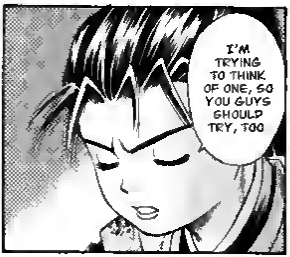
ONLY AFTER YOU LET THEM TRY!
YOU'LL KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THEY'LL BE HELPFUL
FIGHTING?


FOLLOW ME
SINCE YOU FOUND THE COURAGE TO CHALLENGE ME...I'LL GLADLY ACCEPT.
IT SOUNDS INTERESTING. HOWEVER...
HOW STUPID...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO KNOW WHAT THE RESULTS WILL BE
CHALLENGING SOMEONE WITH 50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.

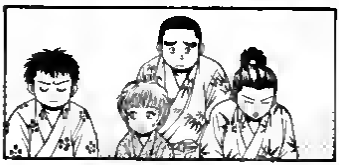
MONK SOLDIER TRAINING HALL
PRETEND THIS IS THE ENEMY'S KING.
WE ARE HIS GUARDS.
WHETHER YOU USE POWER OR INTELLIGENCE...
IF YOU CAN CAPTURE THE KING, YOU WIN.
I WILL GIVE YOU THREE DAYS.
IF YOU TAKE ANY LONGER, THOSE BRATS MUST LEAVE.
IF WE CAN CAPTURE IT, EVERYONE WILL BECOME SOLDIERS, RIGHT?

I MUST SUCCEED!
SHANA
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?

HYOUTA
DO YOU HAVE A PLAN?


I'M TRYING TO THINK OF ONE, SO YOU GUYS SHOULD TRY, TOO

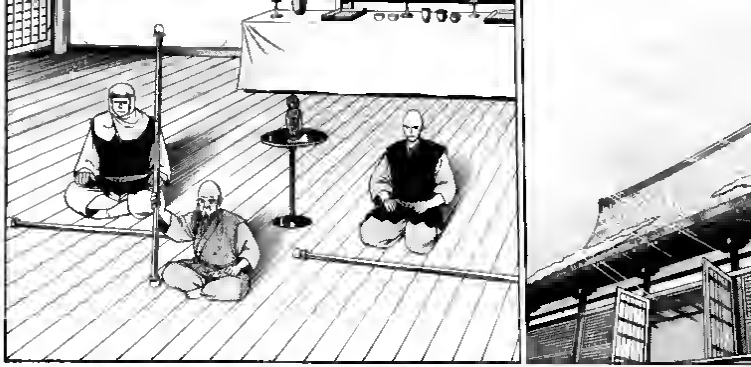
NOPE!
NO...



CAN'T WE TRY A STRAIGHT-FORWARD ATTACK?
YOU MEAN LINING UP AND CHARGING DIRECTLY?
THAT WON'T DO, IT'LL BE TOO WEAK.

IF WE SUCCEED, EVERYONE CAN LIVE HERE, TOGETHER.
AND THIS IS A PLACE THE HEIKE FAMILY CAN'T TOUCH. IT'S SAFE
NO MATTER WHAT, WE HAVE TO WIN

THAT OLD MAN WILL AWAKEN AT THE SWISH OF A BLADE OF GRASS SWAYING IN THE WIND
NO, HUH
WHAT ABOUT AMBUSHING THEM AS THEY SLEEP—
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DEFEAT SOMEONE LIKE HIM?
…

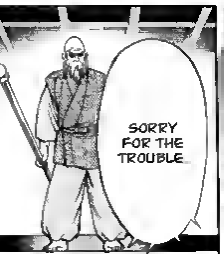


YAWWWNNN
HOO

HM?
THEY'RE HERE.

WE'RE SORRY!

HUH?

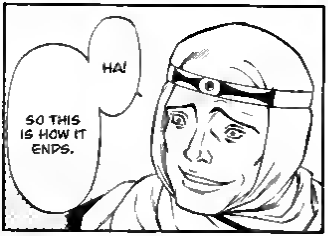

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.

BUT WE DON'T WANT TO CAUSE HIM ANY MORE TROUBLE.
SHANA OH WAS SO ANGRY...
SO, WE'LL JUST GIVE UP AND LEAVE.

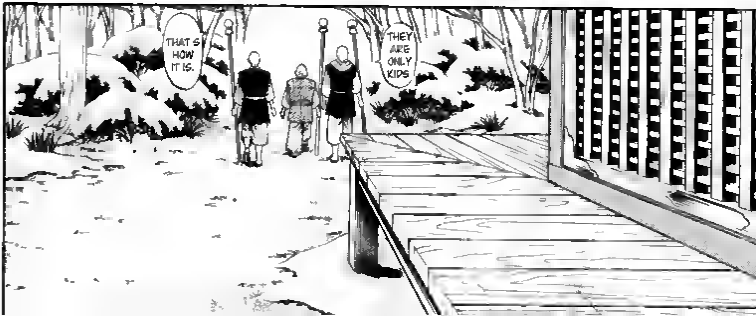
WE WERE THINKING ABOUT IT THE ENTIRE NIGHT...
BUT WE DEFINITELY CAN'T WIN.

.....

THAT'S THAT, MASTER KAMAJII.


HA!
SO THIS IS HOW IT ENDS.

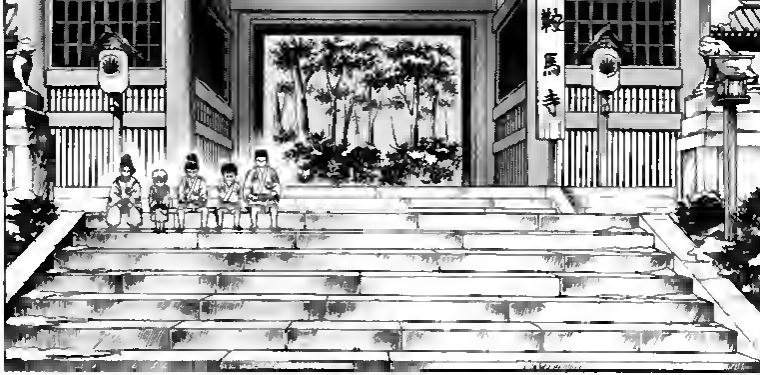
EVEN FOR A BRAT
THIS IS TOO COWARD-LY,


THAT'S HOW IT IS.
THEY ARE ONLY KIDS

HE HEHE, IT WORKED!
KAJIKA SURE CAN ACT
HOHO
THAT OLD MAN ISN'T SO GOOD AFTER ALL
IT'S MY WIN!

EH?
DID YOU THINK SUCH A PETTY TRICK WOULD WORK AGAINST ME?

UWAA!
MAS...MASTER KAMAJII! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT!
DAMN!
IF I WERE SERIOUS, THIS BRAT WOULD BE DEAD ALREADY


鞍馬寺

EVEN THOUGH WE TRIED SO HARD, I GUESS IT STILL WON'T DO...
AND THEN WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE...
IF THIS KEEPS UP, WE'LL REACH THE TIME LIMIT IN NO TIME.

USHIWAKA, PLEASE TEACH ME...
BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO...
I DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM EVERY-ONE
I HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING...

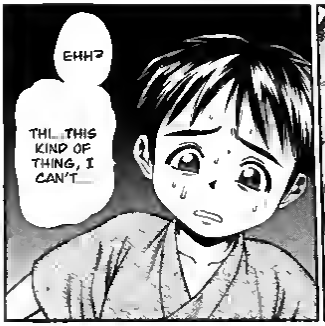
S...STOP! DRUNKARDS AREN'T ALLOWED TO PRAY HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I ONLY DRANK A LITTLE!
NO, NO, NO! COME BACK WHEN YOU ARE SOBER!
WHEN I'M SOBER?
THERE'LL NEVER BE SUCH A TIME! HAHAHAHA!
HMPH! THIS DRUNKARD....
STOP! PLEASE!
THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY LIFE!
I'M GOING TO THROW THIS AWAY!
HE...HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GIVE THAT BACK!

AHA, SO EVEN SUCH A TROUBLESOME PERSON CAN EASILY BE SHOOED AWAY...
I'LL GO BACK!
SO GIVE IT BACK!
I THOUGHT OF A GOOD PLAN
WHAT?
THAT'S IT!!
Capture the thief before the king.

THE ACROBATIC GROUP IS BACK!
?
SIDE HORSE MOUNTAIN VALLEY
KURAMA VILLAGE
COMPLE-TELY FREE! ALL ARE WELCOME!
COME ONE AND ALL! AN INTERESTING SHOW'S ABOUT TO START!

HEY!
うわあああ
IT'S NOT FALLING!
AMA-ZING!
HAH!

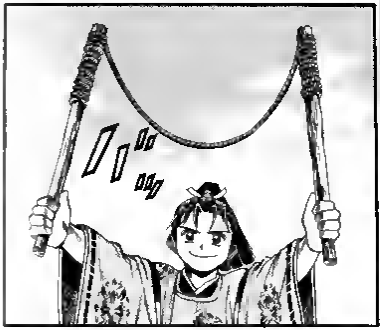
WHAT'S HYOUTA PLANNING TO DO WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE?
BUT...
NO IDEA.
WHAT'S HE DOING?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
EH
LITTLE BOY, D'YA THINK YOU CAN HELP ME?
AND NEXT IS...
THE YO-YO!
YUU...
YU...


EHH?
THI...THIS KIND OF THING, I CAN'T

YUU,
YOUR JOB IS TO CATCH THIS YO-YO ONCE I TOSS IT
IF YOU CAN CATCH IT, THIS PERFORMANCE WILL BE A SUCCESS

AHH
GO! YUU!
GO! YUU!

DON'T WORRY! YOU WERE CHOSEN BY ME!
YUU WILL DEFINITELY SUCCEED!


DO DO DAD

EHHH

HERE WE GO! YUU!

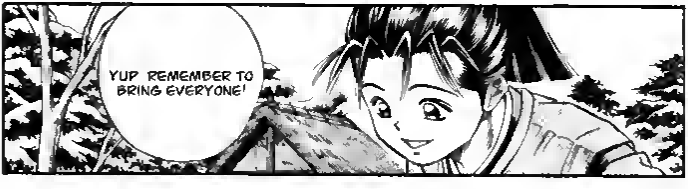
CATCH!
STRETCH OUT YOUR HANDS!
AH!
AH!

パチ
わあああ
EVERYONE GIVE YUU A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!
THAT'S GREAT! IT WORKED!
YOU WERE GREAT, YUU!
AMAZING, YUU!
YOUR PERFO-RMANCE WAS GREAT
DID YOU THINK IT WAS FUN?
WAIT, YUU!
THANK YOU, EVERYONE!
THANK YOU!

WHY DON'T YOU BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO COME PLAY TOMORROW, OKAY?
IS THAT SO?

YEAH!

EH?
CAN I?


YUP REMEMBER TO BRING EVERYONE!

YUP!
PINKY PROMISE!

HEY, HYOUTA, WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH ALL THESE KIDS?
A BATTLE GAME!
EH? WHAT?
YOU'RE GONNA BATTLE KAMAJII WITH KIDS?!
WE'LL DEFINITELY WIN THIS WAY!
VOLUME 6 END. TO BE CONTINUED

製作スタッフ

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中村(人斬り馬鹿)幸四郎
福島(きんぐり)正泰
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掲示板に何か書いてやって下さい。

あとがき

5巻です。
第16話に出て来た徳子は後の建礼門院で、源平合戦の中心人物の一人になります。弁慶の次にすぐまた実在の人物を出すのはちょっと踏躇したのですが、考えてみたら今まで〝少女〟っていうキャラが出ていない（りんは子供なので少女って感じじゃないし）事に気がつき、まァ、いいか‥‥な感じで出しました。余談ですが、最後のページ（「元気でな」のコマ）の空をアシの鯛ちゃんが何回か失敗し、時間がかかった事を皆でチクチク嫌味を言ってヘコませるのがブームになっていました。(笑)

第17話は清盛の話。清盛は本当はかなり優しい人との説もあります。作中では詳しく説明していませんが、本当は白河上皇の子、つまり天皇の息子だったという説が有力です。しかし表立って認められる訳もなく、平氏の棟梁として生きました。高貴な血の生まれなのに平氏に尽力をつくす姿に清盛にもちょっと情がわいてきます。久々に峨山が出ていますが、覚えていてくれたでしょうか？　この回で牛若を本来の7～8歳ぐらいの頭身に近づけようと描きましたが、どうも漫画にするともっと年上に見えてしまい失敗しました。あの全身像は14～15歳に見える‥‥後悔。

第18話で牛若が人を殺して書庫に閉じこもりますが、イメージより悲劇っぽくならなかった所が、良かったのか、悪かったのか‥‥謎です。牛若が人を刺した後嘔吐するのは、昔描いた漫画を、ＨＰにＵＰするために見直した時そんなシーンがあって昔のイメージがよみがえったから。自分からのパクリです。

第19話の作戦はバレバレかな？

5巻は比較的渋い話が多かった気がします。もし、もう少しの爽快感が欲しかったならば、ぜひ同時発売の「山賊王」3巻を読んでみて下さい!!　‥‥宣伝‥‥。(笑)

沢田ひろふみ

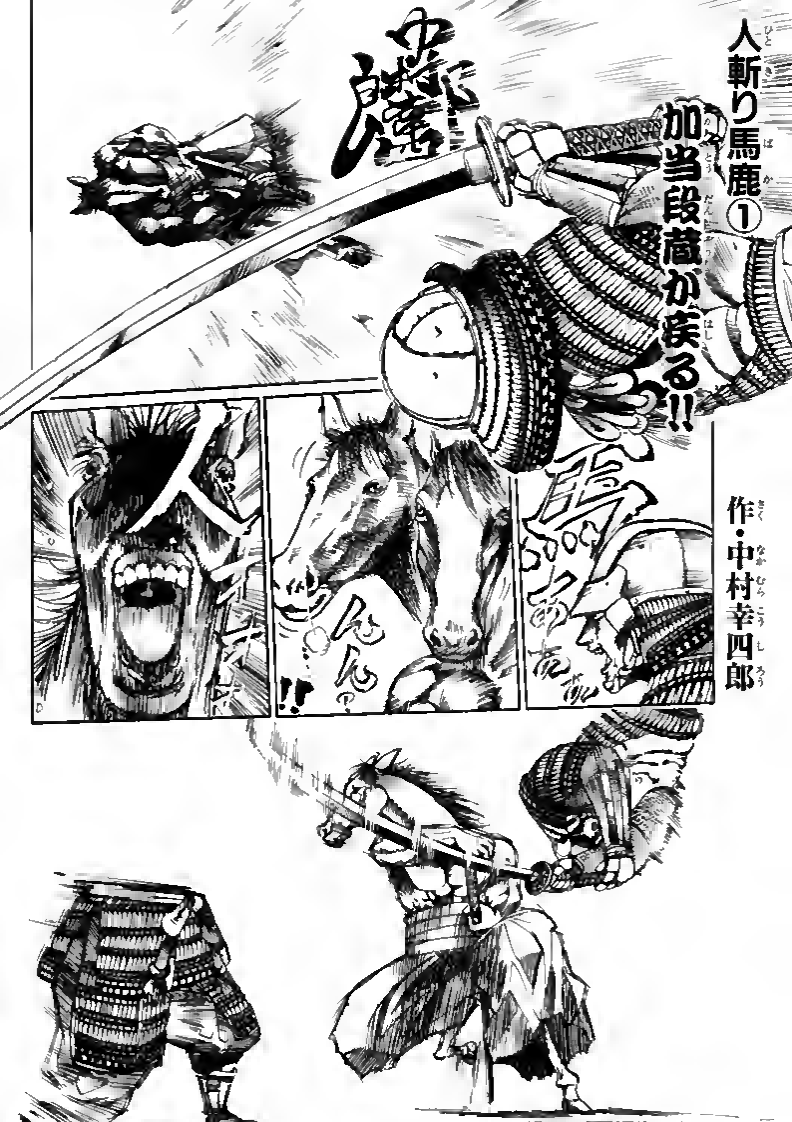
おまけページ

ふくしままさやす

酒

スタッフのみんな、酒が大好きです。
特に沢田先生は超酒豪です。
みんな、たまに休肝日作らないと、
早死にするぞ。

みなさんも、お酒は程々に…。


人斬り馬鹿①
加当段蔵が疾る!!
作・中村幸四郎
「山賊王」第5巻巻末につづく

講談社コミックス　KCGM 839

遮那王 義経⑤

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山賊王

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父を殺された少年、樹長門は、
悪党、楠木正成に拾われ
幕府を倒す決意をする！

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